



Trump challenges U.N., boasting of America's go-it-alone might

By J. LEMIRE and Z. MILLER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — President Donald Trump poured scorn on the "ideology of globalism" and heaped praise on his own administration's achievements Tuesday in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly that drew headshakes and even mocking laughter from his audience of fellow world leaders.

"The U.S. will not tell you how to live and work or worship," Trump said as he unapologetically promoted his "America First" agenda. "We only ask that you honor our sovereignty in return." Speaking in triumphal terms, Trump approached his address to the world body as something of an annual report to the world on his country's progress since his inauguration.



President Donald Trump addresses the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, at U.N. headquarters, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018.

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Mattis: Jury is out on women succeeding in combat jobs

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The jury is still out on whether women can be successful in infantry jobs, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Tuesday, while offering students at the Virginia Military Institute a dim view of female troops serving on the front line.

Mattis, a retired Marine, said there are too few women in the infantry ranks to provide enough data to determine how they're doing. And he said he has asked Army and Marine leaders for information to determine if having women in a "close-quarters fight" is a strength or a weakness.

"There are a few stalwart young ladies who are charging into this, but they are too few," Mattis said during a visit to VMI, which is in Lexington, Virginia. "Clearly the jury is out on it, but what we're trying to do is give it every opportunity to succeed if it can."

He said he hopes to get data from the Army and Marine Corps soon.

In early 2013, then-Defense



In this Sept. 18, 2018, file photo, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis speaks to reporters as he waits for the arrival of Philippine Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana at the Pentagon. Associated Press

Secretary Leon Panetta opened the door to women serving in combat jobs. The military services studied the issue, and in their final recommendations only the Marine Corp leaders argued for an exception so they could keep certain infantry and ground combat jobs open only to men. In December 2015, then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter rejected the Corps' request and ordered all combat posts be opened to women.

Responding to a question

from a male student, who described some of his female classmates as fierce, Mattis said the issue must be resolved by military officers who are objective and understand that the natural inclination is to have service open to all. But, he added, "we cannot do something that militarily doesn't make sense."

Mattis likened the issue to having someone break into your house and having to decide "who grabs the baseball bat" to pro-

tect the children and "who reaches for the phone to call 911." He didn't offer suggestions on what the answer would be.

The Army and Marine Corps have acknowledged that the number of women seeking infantry jobs will probably be small. And women have struggled to pass the demanding training courses.

As of late August, there were just 26 female enlisted Marines in the infantry and one female officer, according to the Marine Corps. More broadly, however, the number of women in Marine combat units that were previously open only to men has grown steadily, from 254 last year to 382 this year — a 50 percent increase.

This year, for the first time, female Marines were allowed to attend the previously male-only entry-level course at the Marine Combat Training Battalion at Camp Pendleton, California. Before that, women only attended combat training at Camp Lejeune

in North Carolina.

The Army has also seen an increase in the number of women in combat units, including in infantry jobs. So far, there are 51 female infantry officers and 253 women in the enlisted ranks of the infantry, according to the Army. Another 51 women are serving in the officer and enlisted ranks in the Army Reserve. In addition, 17 women have passed the Army's grueling two-month Ranger course. Because of the growth, Army leaders earlier this year decided to integrate female officers into infantry and armor brigades at three additional military bases: Fort Carson in Colorado, Fort Campbell in Kentucky, and Fort Bliss in Texas. The increase — from two bases now to five — means there will be women in infantry and armor units at 45 percent of the Army installations that have combat brigades.

Until now, the integrated units were only at Fort Hood in Texas and Fort Bragg in North Carolina. □

U.S. attorneys general discuss social media privacy concerns

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A meeting between top state law enforcement officials and Attorney General Jeff Sessions about how the government can safeguard the privacy of social media users ended Tuesday without a decision on whether to investigate.

The gathering at the Justice Department was scheduled to discuss whether tech giants are "stifling the free exchange of ideas" and examine whether they "may be hurting competition."

But California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, a Democrat, says the one-hour meeting mainly focused on consumer protection and data privacy issues. Attorneys general from Alabama, California, Louisiana, Maryland, Mis-



Attorney General Jeff Sessions speaks during the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice Opioid Research Summit in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 25. Associated Press

issippi, Nebraska, Tennessee, Utah and Washington, D.C., attended. Five other states sent senior deputies. Justice Department officials said the meeting "centered on ways the Department and state governments can most effectively safeguard consumers using

online digital platforms." Although there wasn't an immediate decision on whether to open an investigation, the attorneys general discussed the nuances and interpretation of privacy and what might constitute a monopoly in the tech sector, Becerra said. □



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Trump challenges U.N., boasting of America's go-it-alone might

Continued from Front

He showcased strong economic numbers, declared that the U.S. military is "more powerful than it has ever been before" and crowed that in "less than two years, my administration has accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country." Just sentences into the president's remarks, the audience began to chuckle and some leaders broke into outright laughter, suggesting the one-time reality television star's puffery is as familiar abroad as it is at home. Trump appeared briefly flustered, then smiled and said it was not the reaction he expected "but that's all right."

Later he brushed off the episode, telling reporters, "Oh it was great. Well, that was meant to get some laughter so it was great." The leaders' spontaneous response to Trump's address only reinforced the American president's isolation among allies and foes alike, as his nationalistic policies have created rifts with erstwhile partners and cast doubt in some circles about the reliability of American commitments around the world.

Barely an hour before he spoke, in fact, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared to the assembly that global cooperation is the world's best hope and "multilateralism is under fire precisely when we need it most."

Since taking office, Trump has removed the U.S. from the Paris climate accord, promoted protectionist tariffs and questioned the value of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other alliances in furtherance of what he termed on Tuesday a strategy of "principled realism."

To that end, Trump flaunted his embrace of negotiations with North Korea's Kim Jong Un just a year after he had warned of raining down "total destruction" on a leader he branded "Little Rocket Man." As Trump praised Kim's "courage" on Tuesday, he un-

loaded harsh rhetoric on nuclear-aspirant Iran as a persistent malign influence across the Middle East.

"We ask all nations to isolate Iran's regime as long as its aggression continues," said Trump. The president has removed the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran, citing the country's destabilizing actions throughout the region and support for terrorist groups like Hezbollah, and he accused its leaders on Tuesday of sowing "chaos, death and destruction."

His national security adviser, John Bolton, was to go even further in a speech Tuesday, issuing a dire warning to Iran: "If you cross us, our allies or our partners; if you harm our citizens; if you continue to lie, cheat and deceive, yes, there will indeed be hell to pay," Bolton said, according to prepared remarks released by the White House.

In addition to his keynote speech, Trump is to chair a meeting of the U.N. Security Council about nuclear proliferation on Wednesday. His four days of choreographed foreign affairs were designed to stand in contrast to a presidency sometimes defined by disorder, but they were quickly overshadowed by domestic political crises.

rama also swirls around the job security of Trump's deputy attorney general. Rod Rosenstein was reported last week to have floated the idea of secretly recording the president last year and to have raised the idea of using the 25th Amendment to remove him from office. He will meet with Trump at the White House, also on Thursday.

At the U.N., Trump seized his opportunity to assert American independence from the international body. He showcased his decisions to engage with the erstwhile pariah North Korea, remove the U.S. from the international Iran nuclear accord and object to U.N. programs he believes are contrary to American interests. "We reject the ideology of globalism and we embrace the doctrine of

patriotism," Trump said.

He referenced a list of U.N. bodies, from the International Criminal Court to the Human Rights Council, that his administration is working to undermine.

"America will always choose independence and cooperation over global governance, control and domination," Trump declared. His denunciations of globalism drew murmurs from other members of the organization that stands as the very embodiment of the notion. Shortly before he spoke, in fact, U.N. Secretary-General Guterres had defended international cooperation as the only way to tackle the challenges and threats of increasingly chaotic times. □



President Donald Trump addresses the United Nations General Assembly, Tuesday Sept. 25, 2018 at U.N. headquarters.

Associated Press



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What happens to Mueller probe if Rosenstein loses his job?



Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein leaves the White House in Washington, Monday, Sept. 24, 2018.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The investigation into Russian election interference is often called the Mueller probe, but it's Rod Rosenstein who oversees it. Rosenstein's fate as deputy attorney general remains in the air after a revelation surfaced last week that he floated the idea of recording President Donald Trump. Rosenstein went to the White House on Monday expecting to be fired, but the president gave him a three-day reprieve, and the two are set to have a face-to-face showdown

on Thursday. So what happens to the Russia investigation if Rosenstein loses his job after Thursday's meeting?

Some questions and answers:

WHAT IS ROSENSTEIN'S ROLE IN THE MUELLER PROBE?

Rosenstein is Robert Mueller's boss.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has recused himself from the Russia probe, to Trump's great frustration, and left the duties of overseeing the investigation to Rosenstein. After Trump fired FBI Director James Comey, Rosenstein appointed Mueller as special counsel to take over the investigation. Rosenstein is acting in Sessions' place to oversee the probe and has the power to fire Mueller — for cause — under Justice Department guidelines.

Rosenstein makes nearly all the pivotal decisions in the Mueller investigation, including signing off on indictments. In an interview with USA Today in March, Rosenstein said Mueller was "not an unguided missile." In an investigation kept decidedly out of the public spotlight, it was Rosenstein — not Mueller — who briefed the president and then stood before the microphones when indictments were announced. He did so most recently in July, when the Justice Department charged 12 Russian intelligence officers in the hacking of Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton campaign emails during the 2016 election.

WHO WOULD REPLACE ROSENSTEIN IF HE IS OUSTED?

Under the Justice Department's succession plan, control of the Russia probe would be turned over to Solicitor General Noel Francisco. He is the highest-ranking official after Rosenstein who has been confirmed by the Senate — a requirement for the position. The acting associate attorney general is actually ranked higher but would be ineligible because it is not a Senate-confirmed position. But Francisco wouldn't

take over as acting deputy. Sessions would likely move his chief of staff, Matthew Whitaker, into that position. He would take over Rosenstein's responsibilities outside the Mueller probe.

That would be a departure from the department's regular succession plan, which would make Rosenstein's chief deputy, Edward O'Callaghan, the acting deputy.

WHO IS NOEL FRANCISCO?

As solicitor general, Francisco is the president's top lawyer who has successfully defended controversial Trump policies, including the travel ban, before the Supreme Court. Francisco served in President George W. Bush's administration, was a law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia and was an attorney at the Washington law firm Jones Day, where he took on a number of conservative causes. The firm represents the Trump campaign, which could raise questions about whether he would have a conflict overseeing the Russia investigation. Francisco has recused himself from Supreme Court cases in which Jones Day represents a party. If Francisco recuses himself from the Mueller probe, Steven Engel, the head of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, would be next in line to take over the investigation.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT WHETHER ROSENSTEIN RESIGNS OR IS FIRED?

The circumstances of Rosenstein's departure would affect Trump's ability to pick a replacement. Under a law known as the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, if Rosenstein resigns, the president would have the power to temporarily move any Senate-confirmed appointee into the vacant post. But Trump has less flexibility if he fires Rosenstein. The Justice Department would likely need to adhere to its succession plan, appointing Francisco as the overseer of the Mueller probe and Whitaker as deputy attorney general. □

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FBI: Baltimore homicide rate topped U.S. big cities in 2017

By DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — New crime statistics released by the FBI place Baltimore's homicide rate last year well above that of any other large American metropolis, making it an anomaly in the national crime landscape for U.S. cities with populations over 500,000 people. The 342 homicides notched last year in Maryland's biggest city yielded a punishing homicide rate of 56 per 100,000 people, according to the FBI's annual Crime in the United States report released Monday. Earlier this year, Baltimore had announced 343 slayings for the year, but three deaths were reclassified, eventually bringing the total to 342 in the city of roughly 615,000 inhabitants. The per capita rate was a record high for the city.

Among major U.S. cities, Baltimore was followed in the FBI's annual tally by Detroit, which last year recorded a homicide rate of 40 per 100,000 people; Memphis, Tennessee, with a rate of 28 per 100,000; and Chicago, with a rate of 24 per 100,000. But some smaller cities reported a higher homicide rate than Baltimore's. St. Louis, with a population slightly over 300,000, had a rate of 66 murders per 100,000 people.

Overall, the FBI says the national violent crime rate decreased by 0.2 percent from 2016 to last year, making Baltimore's record tally stand out even more for large urban centers. In comparison, Houston, with over 2 million residents, had a rate of 12 homicides per 100,000 people. Boston, with less than 700,000 residents, had eight slayings per 100,000.

Violent crime rates in Baltimore have been notoriously high for years. In recent decades, the city's gritty realities helped make it the setting for hard-boiled crime shows such as "The Wire," "The Corner," and "Homicide." But there's

been a worrying march of killings since the 2015 death of Freddie Gray, who suffered a fatal injury in police

custody, that eventually set a new per capita high in 2017. Baltimore's leaders are hopeful this year could mark somewhat of a turnaround. So far in 2018, crime is declining, with homicides down about 16 percent compared to the same stretch of time last year. Killings are down by over 30 percent in some troubled neighborhoods where authorities are focusing attention, according to City Hall. "One murder in Baltimore is one murder too many. But I am convinced that by addressing the root causes that give rise to hopelessness and eventually to criminal activity, we will make Baltimore safer for all residents," said Mayor Catherine Pugh in an email Tuesday. She took office in December 2016.

But crime experts note that Baltimore's leaders have been failing to get their act together for a long time. David Kennedy, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, said that what's distinctive about Baltimore

violence epidemic. He contrasted it with Chicago, one of the deadliest cities in the country but a place where he believes leaders have a clear focus and a plan.

The main reasons for Baltimore's violent crime problems are the subject of endless interpretation. Some attribute the increase to the fallout of the opioid epidemic and Baltimore's longstanding status as a heroin market, or to systemic failures like segregated neighborhoods, unequal justice and a scarcity of decent opportunities for many citizens. Others have pointed the finger at police, accusing them of taking a hands-off approach to fighting crime since six officers were charged in connection with the 2015 death of Gray, a black man whose mysterious fatal spinal cord injury in police custody triggered the city's worst riots in decades. In addition, there's been serious instability at the top of the police force and scandals and missteps have worsened a trust defi-

cit in city neighborhoods. Baltimore is also struggling to implement a consent decree mandating reforms



In this Dec. 16, 2015, file photo, deputies stand guard in front of the courthouse main entrance as demonstrators protest outside of the building after a mistrial of Officer William Porter, one of six Baltimore city police officers charged in connection to the death of Freddie Gray, in Baltimore. Associated Press

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Judge restores energy lease on Montana land sacred to tribes

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A judge reinstated an oil and gas lease on land in northwestern Montana considered sacred to some tribes in the U.S. and Canada — a ruling that could test the depths of the Trump administration's support for the energy industry. President Barack Obama's Interior Department improperly canceled the nearly 10-square-mile (26-square-kilometer) lease adjacent to Glacier National Park in 2016, U.S. District Judge Richard Leon in Washington, D.C., said this week.

Solenex LLC of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, holds the lease and wants to drill for gas. It's within the Badger Two-Medicine area of Lewis and Clark National Forest — site of the creation story of the Blackfoot tribes of southern Canada and Montana's Blackfeet Nation.

Solenex attorney William Perry Pendley urged President Donald Trump's administration to let the com-



In this March 25, 2016, file photo, the sun sets over the Badger-Two Medicine area near Browning, Mont.

Associated Press

pany proceed with drilling. He argued that a failure to reverse the Obama administration decision would leave all oil and gas leases granted under Trump in danger of being ended under future presidents.

"The right to drill on these leases cannot be denied," Pendley said. "This is a property right, and it's well settled: When you get a lease,

the government is agreeing you have a right to drill." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has made energy development a top priority. Zinke last year recommended designating the Badger-Two Medicine as a national monument, but that would not automatically bar drilling.

Government attorneys who had defended the

Obama-era lease cancellation in court were reviewing the ruling, which was issued late Monday, U.S. Justice Department spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle said Tuesday. He declined to comment on a potential appeal.

Solenex has held the lease for more than 30 years. It had not yet drilled because of numerous bureaucratic delays within the U.S. departments of Interior and Agriculture that prompted the company to sue in 2013.

An attorney for conservation groups and members of the Blackfeet tribe who intervened in the case said it was frustrating to have the lease reinstated given how long it took to get it canceled.

"Conservationists and certainly the Blackfeet have been screaming at the government for years that this lease was illegal," attorney Tim Preso said. "Unfortunately, the government had not responded in a timely fashion and when they did get around to canceling it, the court says

you waited too long." Because the lease had been under a longstanding suspension when it was canceled, its status after the ruling was uncertain.

Interior Department representatives did not immediately respond to questions about the lease's status.

Pendley and Preso speculated that the lease would remain suspended, meaning drilling could not begin pending further action by the court or government officials. The Badger-Two Medicine area is part of the Rocky Mountain Front, a scenic expanse of forested mountains that's been subject to a long campaign to block oil and gas development and mining.

Congress in 2006 provided tax breaks and other incentives that prompted 29 leaseholders to relinquish their drilling rights, but some leaseholders declined the offers. Fifteen leases in the area were given up voluntarily by Devon Energy in 2016, and the government canceled what had been the last two leases in the area last year. □



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Biker gang's second-in-command sentenced to 2 life terms

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A federal judge sentenced a former leader of the notorious Bandidos biker gang to two consecutive life terms and another 20 years in prison for directing a violent racketeering and drug trafficking enterprise.

John Portillo of San Antonio was sentenced Monday. The 59-year-old was the national vice president of the Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Organization.

Jurors in May found Portillo and the group's president, Jeffrey Pike, guilty of directing gang members to commit murder, attempted murder, robbery, assault, intimidation, extortion and drug trafficking. Trial evidence revealed the pair's role in violent acts against

rivals around the biker club's home turf of Texas.

The three-month federal trial also determined that Portillo was involved in trafficking methamphetamine and cocaine under an arrangement with the Texas Mexican Mafia.

A federal investigation of the leaders arose from the 2006 killing of Anthony Benesh, who was attempting to start a Texas Chapter of the Hells Angels and had ignored the Bandidos' warnings to cease recruitment. Evidence during trial revealed that Portillo and Pike ordered members to murder Benesh.

Jurors also found that Portillo was involved in the 2002 killing of Robert Lara to avenge for the death of a

Bandidos member.

Senior U.S. District Judge David Ezra gave Portillo two consecutive life sentences for racketeering murder. Ezra also handed down 10-year sentences on each of Portillo's two charges of using or discharging a gun in furtherance of racketeering.

Portillo was ordered to forfeit his motorcycle, three firearms and more than \$17,800 seized from his home during a 2016 search.

Pike, who led the organization for more than a decade, is scheduled to be sentenced Wednesday. He also faces up to life in prison. □



This May 17, 2018, file photo shows John Xavier Portillo, former national vice president of the Bandidos, leaving John Wood Federal Courthouse in San Antonio, Texas.

Associated Press

Virginia suspends tampon ban for prison visitors

By **ALAN SUDERMAN**

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia is suspending a newly introduced policy that would have barred women who visit inmates at state prisons from wearing tampons or menstrual cup.

Secretary of Public and Homeland Security Safety Brian Moran said Tuesday on Twitter that he had ordered an "immediate suspension until further review." The abrupt about-face comes a day after widespread media coverage of state prison officials' plan to ban tampons starting next month as a way to prevent contraband from being smuggled into prisons. Moran said he understands the worries about contraband, but added that "a number of concerns have been raised about the new procedure."

"I feel it appropriate to immediately suspend the newly developed policy until a more thorough review of its implementation and potential consequences are considered," Moran said.

Inmate advocates have been sharply critical of the now-suspended policy, saying it violates the privacy rights of female visitors.

ACLU of Virginia Executive Director Claire Gastanaga said the policy should be permanently put to rest rather than simply suspended. And Phyllis Randall, a former chairwoman of the state Board of Corrections, sent Moran a letter Tuesday saying the policy "represents a major systemic failure and an admission" that Moran and Department of Corrections Director Harold Clark "have lost the ability to effectively keep contraband out of Virginia's prisons."

Corrections spokeswoman Lisa Kinney previously said that the agency had consulted with the state Attorney General's Office about how to implement the policy and "it was decided that facilities would offer pads to women who are wearing tampons while visiting a prison so the tampons don't appear as possible contraband on a body scan." □

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In most global of settings, UN ponders populism's problems

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**
JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

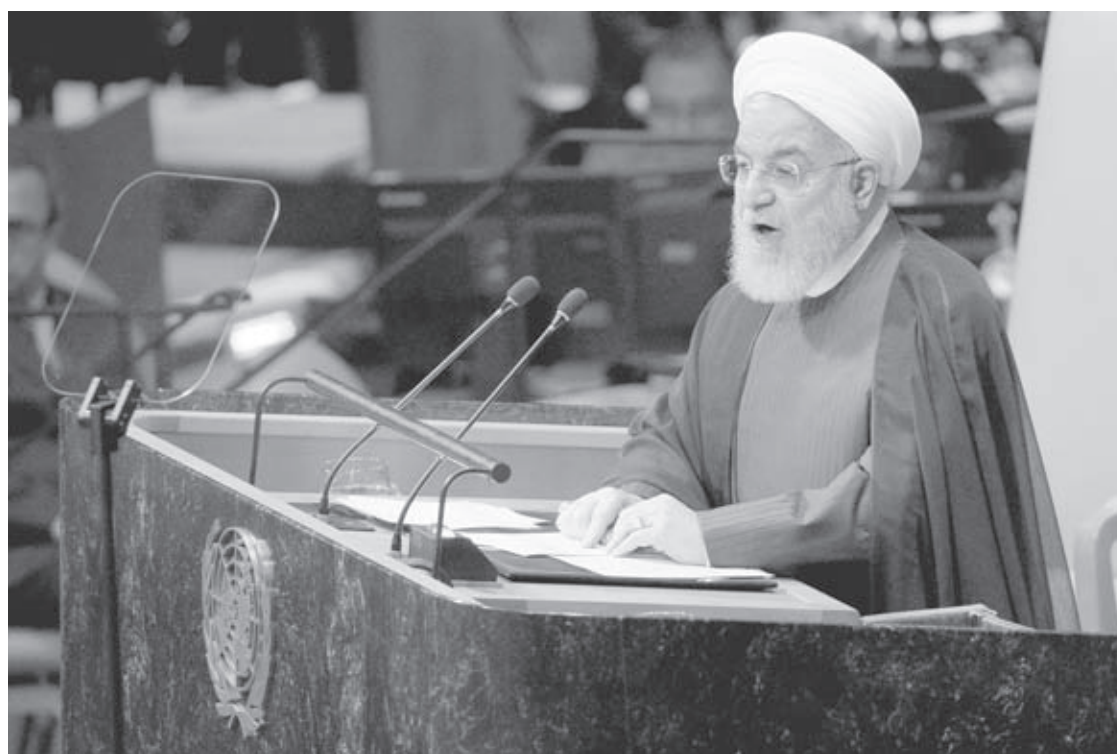
UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Warning that the world has a bad case of "trust deficit disorder" and risks "run-away climate change," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged global leaders Tuesday to abandon unilateralism and reinvigorate cooperation as the only way to tackle the challenges and threats of increasingly chaotic times. The U.N. chief painted a grim picture of the state of the world in his opening address to the annual gathering of presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and government officials from the U.N.'s 193 member nations. He pointed to rising polarization and populism, ebbing cooperation, "fragile" trust in international institutions and "outrage" at the inability to end wars in Syria, Yemen and elsewhere.

"Democratic principles are under siege," Guterres said. "The world is more connected, yet societies are becoming more fragmented. Challenges are growing outward, while many people are turning inward. Multilateralism is under fire precisely when we need it most."

In contrast, U.S. President Donald Trump defended an America-first policy, rejecting "global governance, control and domination." He said he expects other nations to honor America's sovereignty in return.

"America is governed by Americans," Trump said in his speech. "We reject the ideology of globalism, and



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani addresses the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018 at U.N. headquarters.

we embrace the doctrine of patriotism."

But French President Emmanuel Macron assailed self-interest in his address soon after Trump, saying "nationalism always leads to defeat."

He drew loud applause for his impassioned plea against isolationism and for global cooperation.

"Friends, I know you may be tired of multilateralism. I also know that the world is flooded with information, and one becomes indifferent. It all starts to look like a big show," he said. "Please, don't get used to it, don't become indifferent. Do not accept the erosion of multilateralism. Don't accept our history unraveling. I'm not getting used to this, and I'm not turning my head."

In his speech, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani took a dig at Trump over the issue — indirectly, if not by

name.

"Confronting multilateralism is not a sign of strength; rather it is a symptom of the weakness of intellect — it betrays an inability in understanding a complex and interconnected world," Rouhani said.

Iran has been a target of escalating U.S. accusations over its nuclear and missile programs and international terrorist activities. It vehemently denies any nuclear ambitions or involvement in international terrorism.

Trump earlier had blasted what he called Iran's "corrupt dictatorship," saying he has launched an "economic pressure" campaign against the country. The U.S. withdrew this year from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. Rouhani accused the U.S. of trying to overthrow his government, rejecting bilateral talks after Trump

discrimination against women and for reinforcing "our male-dominated culture," he said.

"The weaponization of artificial intelligence is a growing concern," he added.

General Assembly President Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces opened the gathering by asking the VIPs to stand in silent tribute to former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who died Aug. 18 at age 80.

Espinosa Garces, who was Ecuador's foreign minister, echoed Guterres' appeal on multilateralism, saying the General Assembly is "the only place where a meeting of this kind is possible," and where all countries "have the opportunity to hear and be heard."

She said the U.N.'s global contribution has been immense, from international law and the promotion of peace to human rights, combatting poverty and preserving the environment.

"The reality is that the work of the United Nations is as relevant today as it was 73 years ago," she said. "Multilateralism stands alone as the only viable response to the global problems that we are faced with. To undermine multilateralism, or to cast a doubt upon its merits, will only lead to instability and division, to mistrust and polarization."

Brazil's President Michel Temer also focused on threats to global cooperation.

"We live in times clouded by isolationist forces," he said. "Old forms of intolerance are being rekindled. Unilateral relapses are, today, increasingly less of an exception." □

Associated Press

predicted stepped-up U.S. sanctions would get Tehran to negotiate over its nuclear program.

Guterres highlighted two challenges that have taken on "surpassing urgency" since last year: climate change and new risks from advances in technology.

"Climate change is moving faster than we are," he warned. "If we do not change course in the next two years, we risk runaway climate change. ... Our future is at stake."

Guterres said artificial intelligence, blockchain and biotechnology can potentially "turbocharge progress," but also pose risks and serious dangers.

Technology stands to change or eliminate some jobs and is being misused for sexual abuse, for terrorism and for malicious acts in cyberspace including disinformation campaigns,



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Merkel's party ousts close ally of chancellor from top post

By **GEIR MOULSON**
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A close ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel was ousted Tuesday as head of her conservative bloc's parliamentary group, a surprise defeat that dealt a blow to the longtime German leader's authority in her own ranks. Volker Kauder, who had led the parliamentary group of Merkel's Union bloc since she became chancellor in 2005, was defeated by Ralph Brinkhaus — a budget policy expert who had been one of his deputies. The vote followed a wobbly start to Merkel's fourth government, a coalition of the Union and the center-left Social Democrats,

which has squabbled persistently since it took office in March. It came a year after the conservatives lost significant support in an election that saw the far-right Alternative for Germany enter parliament. Kauder, who had Merkel's support, had been widely expected to prevail in Tuesday's vote of lawmakers from Merkel's Christian Democratic Union and its Bavaria-only sister party, the Christian Social Union. But he was defeated by a 125-112 margin, with two abstentions.

"This is a moment of democracy," Merkel told reporters. "Those also include defeats, and there's no glossing over that."



German Chancellor Angela Merkel walks through a corridor of the Reichstag building during a Christian Union parties faction meeting in Berlin, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018.

Associated Press

She said she hoped to work well with Brinkhaus and left without taking questions. The 50-year-old Brinkhaus, who isn't well-known to

most Germans, was the first challenger Kauder, 68, had faced since taking office 13 years ago. Brinkhaus hasn't suggest-

ed any significant policy changes and has insisted that his candidacy wasn't directed against Merkel, but stressed the "independence" of the parliamentary group. After Tuesday's vote, he said it's important to "get to work quickly." The vote had been viewed as a barometer for Merkel's authority in the conservative ranks after a difficult year.

"The parliamentary group's revolt against Merkel's candidate of choice is a visible sign of the chancellor's eroding power," the daily Handelsblatt wrote. "Kauder didn't stand for much anymore, other than securing majorities for the chancellor." □

French ex-premier launches bid to become Barcelona mayor

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Former French Prime Minister Manuel Valls launched a bid on Tuesday to become Barcelona's mayor in an election next year with the aim to "rescue" the Catalan capital from "deterioration."

The 56-year-old Valls, who was born in Barcelona but was raised in France and made a career in local and national politics there, said he would resign as a French lawmaker in order to focus on his bid in the neighboring country.

His jump to Spanish politics raises the stakes for the May election as a battleground between those who want the wealthy northeastern Catalan region to either break away or remain part



France's former prime minister Manuel Valls speaks during a press conference in Barcelona, Spain to announce his candidacy for mayor of Barcelona on Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018.

Associated Press

of Spain.

After months of negotiations with the anti-secession Ciutadans (Citizens) party, Valls finally announced on Tuesday that he was

choosing to lead an independent ticket. His bid has the backing of the Spanish center-right party led by Albert Rivera but Valls said that he seeks wider sup-

port. "Barcelona should be an antidote against populism," Valls said, adding that the city "has to be a meeting point and a space of cohabitation."

But rather than focusing on the territorial dispute, Valls chose to emphasize plans to bolster security and fight inequality in the city of 1.6 million, while promising efforts to boost the local economy and raise the international profile of the "Barcelona brand."

The city, he said switching between Catalan and Spanish at a packed auditorium, "is deteriorating and none of us should be indifferent."

The comment was an attack on far-left incumbent Ada Colau. The former an-

ti-eviction activist wants to earn re-election but is facing mounting criticism for her handling of street vendors and the prevalence of drug trafficking in the city center.

Valls has been a household name in French politics for more than a decade. He served as the mayor of Evry, a town on the outskirts of Paris, before becoming interior minister in 2012 and then prime minister between 2014 and 2016, when Francois Hollande was the country's president.

After failing in his bid to become a presidential candidate last year, Valls left the Socialist party and joined Emmanuel Macron's Republic on the Move centrist party. □



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Pope: Priestly abuse scandals driving Catholic faithful away

By **NICOLE WINFIELD**
JARI TANNER

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) —

Pope Francis acknowledged Tuesday that priestly sex abuse scandals are outraging the Catholic faithful and driving them away, and said the church must change its ways if it wants to keep future generations.

Francis referred directly to the crisis convulsing his papacy on the fourth and final day of his Baltic pilgrimage, which coincided with the release of a devastating new report into decades of sex abuse and cover-ups in Germany.

Francis told young people in Estonia, considered one of the least religious countries in the world, that he knew many young people felt the church had nothing to offer them and simply doesn't understand their problems today.

"They are outraged by sexual and economic scandals that do not meet with clear condemnation, by our unpreparedness to really appreciate the lives and sensibilities of the young, and simply by the passive role we assign them," he told Catholic, Lutheran and Orthodox young people in the Kaarli Lutheran Church in the Estonian capital of Tallinn.

He said the Catholic Church wants to respond to those complaints transparently and honestly.

"We ourselves need to be converted," he said. "We have to realize that, in order to stand by your side, we need to change many situations that, in the end,



Pope Francis arrives to celebrate a Mass in Freedom Square, in Tallinn, Estonia, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018.

Associated Press

put you off."

It was a very public admission of the church's failures in confronting sex abuse scandals, which have roared back to the headlines recently with revelations of abuses and cover-ups in the U.S., Chilean and now German churches.

On Tuesday, the German bishops conference released a report which found that some 3,677 people — more than half of them 13 or younger and nearly a third of them altar boys — were abused by clergy between 1946 and 2014.

The report, compiled by university researchers, found evidence that some files were manipulated or destroyed, many cases were not brought to justice and that sometimes abus-

ers were simply moved to other dioceses without congregations being informed about their past.

The abuse scandal, which erupted in Ireland in the 1990s and subsequently in Australia and the U.S., now threatens Francis' own papacy since his record as cardinal and pope has proven uneven on the topic. A former Vatican ambassador has accused Francis of rehabilitating an American cardinal who slept with seminarians.

Francis has declined to respond to the accusations, but the Vatican is expected to. Francis' visit to Tallinn marked the last stop in a four-day pilgrimage that also took him to Lithuania and Latvia. The trip aimed to encourage the Christian faith in the Baltics, which

saw five decades of Soviet-imposed religious repression and state-sponsored atheism, as well as the World War II-era occupation by Nazi Germany.

Francis has been warmly welcomed in the region, even if Catholics are only a majority in Lithuania. Estonia only has 6,000 Catholics nationwide, but residents still seemed to welcome Francis' inclusive message. Some 10,000 people flocked to his final Mass in a chilly but sun-soaked Freedom Square near Tallinn's charming medieval center. "For me, it's in my heart what I believe, and I think Francis is this kind of 'papa' who wants to change," said Marko Tubli, a Tallinn resident. "A church is not like 'You must be this way and this way.' It is more open."

Upon arriving Tuesday, Francis praised Estonia's social and economic transformation in the quarter century since the 1991 Soviet collapse. But he warned that a certain "existential ennui" can set in when societies lose their cultural roots and put their faith in technological progress alone.

"One of the evident effects of technocratic societies is a loss of meaning in life and the joy of living," he said. Interpersonal and intergenerational bonds can be lost, depriving young generations of foundations to build a common future, he said. Estonia is considered both one of the most tech-advanced countries in Europe and one of the least religious societies in the world. More than half of Estonia's 1.3 million people profess no religious affiliation. The Lutheran and Russian Orthodox churches count the most followers of those who do.

In her welcoming speech, Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid acknowledged that rapid changes taking place amid robust economic growth — something particularly visible in the Baltic nations — shouldn't mean the "vulnerable among us" are neglected. She presented Francis with a special digital ID card giving foreigners access to dozens of digital services in the Baltic country, ranging from medical services to signing legal contracts and filing taxes. The government says over 37,000 people from dozens of countries have been registered as "e-residents" in Estonia. □



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Thai court finds 9 Muslim men guilty in Bangkok bomb plot

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — A Thai court on Tuesday convicted nine young Muslim men from southern Thailand of planning to set off a car bomb in the capital, in a case in which many of the defendants said they were tortured into making false confessions.

The Criminal Court in Bangkok found all nine guilty of two offenses — belonging to an underground criminal group and conspiracy — and sentenced each to four years' imprisonment. One was also found guilty of illegal possession of explosive devices, giving him a total of six years in prison. Their original sentences were eight years and 12 years, respectively, which were halved because of their confessions, which is normal practice in Thai courts. Five defendants were acquitted.

The case began when at least 50 Thai Muslims, mostly students at Bangkok's Ramkhamhaeng University, were rounded up in joint police-military sweeps on Oct. 10, 2016. They were released but 13 were rearrested the following month along with an additional suspect.

At least seven of the 14 defendants said they had been tortured or otherwise physically abused in custody, but the presiding judge said the court considered their allegations baseless as the men did not provide any evidence and did not report the cases to police. The guilty verdict was based mainly on the confessions. The only other major evidence presented against them was traces of explosive material found on one of the men one week after he was first detained. All 14 men are from Thailand's deep south, which has

been plagued by a bloody insurgency since 2004. Muslims in the poverty-stricken south feel they are treated as second-class citizens in Thailand, which is overwhelmingly Buddhist. Virtually all the violence carried out by Muslim separatist insurgents has been limited to Thailand's three southernmost provinces. But a series of bombings at popular seaside towns in August 2016 which killed four people and wounded dozens raised fears among law enforcement agencies that attacks could spread to Bangkok.

Pornpen Khongkachonkiet, from the Cross Cultural Foundation, a human rights organization that sent observers to the trial, said seven defendants testified in court that they were tortured while under detention in army camps either in Bangkok or in the southern province of Pattani. There have been many accusations of torture by the authorities as part of their effort to quell the southern insurgency.

"The degrees of severity of torture claimed by these men varied," Pornpen said. "Their claims include being punched, head-locked, and doused or sprayed with water and locked in cold rooms. These allegations raised concern about how the confessions were obtained."

One of those originally detained, Tarmizi Tohtayong, described in court how he was blindfolded and beaten up until he agreed to sign a confession before he was released. When he was detained again, he denied involvement in plotting a bombing, then was doused with water and kept in a very cold room for days until he agreed again to confess. □



Tarmizi Tohtayong exits a prison bus after arriving at the criminal court in Bangkok, Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018.

Associated Press

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Venezuelan socialist president easily toppled

By **SCOTT SMITH**
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— President Donald Trump suggested on Tuesday that Venezuela's leader Nicolas Maduro could be easily toppled by a military coup and the U.S. stepped up financial pressure by slapping the socialist president's inner circle with fresh sanctions.

Trump declined to respond to questions about whether a U.S.-led military intervention in the crisis-stricken country was possible, saying he doesn't reveal military strategy.

"It's a regime that, frankly, could be toppled very quickly by the military if the military decides to do that," Trump said in comments on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. "It's a truly bad place in the world today."

Earlier in the day, the Trump administration slapped financial sanctions on four members of Maduro's inner circle, including his wife and the nation's vice president, on allegations of corruption.

As part of the actions, the U.S. barred Americans from doing business with and will seize any financial assets in the U.S. belonging to First Lady Cilia Flores, Vice President Delcy Rodriguez, Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez and Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino.

"We are continuing to designate loyalists who enable Maduro to solidify his hold on the military and the government while the



In this photo released, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro and wife Cilia Flores greet supporters upon their arrival to a meeting with Colombian citizens that reside in Venezuela, in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018.

Associated Press

Venezuelan people suffer," Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin said in a statement.

Over the past two years the Trump administration has sanctioned dozens of individuals, including Maduro himself, on allegations of corruption, drug trafficking and human rights abuses. But until now it had spared key leaders like Delcy Rodriguez, as well as the U.S.-trained Padrino, believing they occupy seats of power and could play a key role in an eventual transition.

David Smilde, a Tulane University professor who has spent more than two decades living and working in Venezuela, said Tuesday's actions would seem to suggest the U.S. has given up trying to sow division

within the government in the hopes it could force a democratic transition from within.

"This clearly breaks from that strategy, said Smilde. "If everyone is sanctioned then it could end up uniting the government."

Maduro later appeared on state television, thanking Trump for sanctions that he called a badge of honor for those around him in a battle against what he calls an imperialist power. He also blasted the sanctions targeting his wife.

"If you want to attack me, come at me directly. But don't touch Cilia and my family," Maduro said, calling her an anti-imperialist warrior. "Her only crime is being my wife."

Flores is an influential fig-

ure in her own right, and has served in congress as well as a constitutional assembly that has expansive powers.

Beyond rallying Maduro's opponents, it's unclear what impact the sanctions will have.

For over a year, top U.S. officials have struggled to build support for more-sweeping oil sanctions, facing resistance from energy companies still active in the country and fearing it could tip the OPEC nation over the edge at a time of hyperinflation and widespread food and medicine shortages.

The latest sanctions by the U.S. Treasury Department also seized a \$20 million private jet belonging to an alleged front man for pow-

erful socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello.

Trump publicly floated the idea of a military option in August 2017, but since then he has avoided making any direct references to a possible attack.

Maduro, however, has repeatedly accused the U.S. of backing attempts to overthrow him.

But Fernando Cutz, who until April led U.S. policy on Venezuela at the National Security Council under both Presidents Obama and Trump, said that only in unusual cases would the United States employ military action in Venezuela.

An attack on the U.S. Embassy in Caracas harming American citizens would warrant a military response, he said, or a scenario where Venezuelan government forces slaughtered 1,000 or more of its own people.

Cutz spoke publicly Monday at the Wilson Center think tank in Washington for the first time since leaving government. He said he did not back force as an option, but that it's likely the only way the entrenched Maduro regime could be removed.

"For us to remove that from the table is irresponsible," Cutz said. "We need to keep all the options on the table."

Adding to the political pressure, a bi-partisan group of 11 senators on Monday introduced sweeping legislation that calls for expanding humanitarian relief to Venezuelans by \$40 million and increasing pressure on Maduro's government. □

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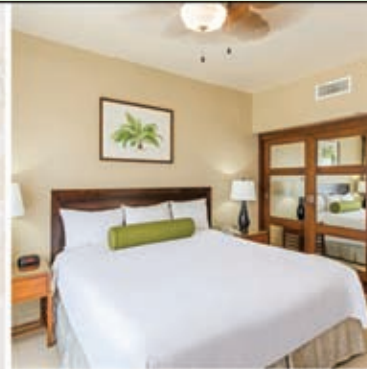
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- 10PM drawing of the 4th Prize: Weekend Stay & \$250 Bonus Slot Dollars

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- 10 PM drawing of the 5th prize: Weekend Stay & \$250 Bonus Slot Dollars (The winner(s) needs to be present)

- 10 PM drawing of the 6th prize: \$300 Bonus Slot Dollars (The winner(s) needs to be present)

- 9 PM drawing of the 7th prize: \$200 Bonus Slot Dollars (The winner(s) needs to be present)

- 9 PM drawing of the 8th Prize: \$150 Bonus Slot Dollars (The winner(s) needs to be present)

- 8 PM drawing of the 9th Prize: Dinner for Two (The winner(s) needs to be present)

- 8 PM drawing of the 10th Prize: \$100 Bar tab (The winner(s) needs to be present)

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SAN NICOLAS — Experience San Nicolas will take place this Saturday in the city center of San Nicolas. Come and enjoy what this great City has to offer. Starting from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM you can join different workshops taking place, taste locally brewed coffee, visit the museum, savor local food and dance to live music & live performances.

The local market Sani Market will be filled with various local treats and nu-

merous sweets. Come try homemade Johnny Cakes, snacks, dished and local soup. If you love the Caribbean then this is a must visit on your list.

If you wish to learn more about local history and the arts the local way, you can join the San Nicolas City Art Walk. This tour highlights the Sunrise City by visiting both museums, the murals, Cosecha Store with a final stop at the Sani market. The tour is provided by a guided professional. The

price \$15 per person and includes a bottled water. The starting time is 10:30 AM. Start point is Museum of Industry situated in the iconic Water Tower. Your reservation is required: info-museumofindustry@gmail.com / 5847090 Hotels picks up and drop off is available. Hop on the CHOGO-GO bus from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM price: \$35 per person. Reservation is required: info@chogogoaruba.com / 592.4955

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During the Experience you can also visit the brand new museum in San Nicolas. If you would like to get to know more about Aruba's history, the Community Museum is the place to visit. Its nostalgic stories and illustrations create a vivid picture of Aruba's history, culture and community and will take you back in time. Entrance to the museum is free. From 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM there is a special event guided by the museum curator amongst special guests sharing the story of an unexpected coffee industry that took over the Island in the late sixties and

seventies. The entrance for the event is \$5pp. You can reserve your seat at infocommunitymuseum@gmail.com

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The Honorees are Mr. Rick & Mrs. Lizette Adams, residents of Rockwall Texas, who have been coming to Aruba for more than 10 consecutive years and are staying at the Marriott Surf Club. The honorees love the weather, the people of Aruba and the breathtaking sunsets.

Darline together with the Jenny Boekhoudt of the Marriott Surf Club presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □





A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 26

Dinner under the stars at Renaissance Island

- Take a boat trip to Renaissance Island and let your taste buds travel to paradise.
- Enjoy our 4-course dinner menu consisting of a Beer braised Short Rib or Tandoori marinated Mahi-Mahi, while your toes get pampered in our white secluded sand.
- Our private dinner setting includes a welcome cocktail at Lucy's Dock (across the Renaissance Mall), boat trip to Renaissance Private Island, dinner on the beach and live entertainment
- From 7 PM till 10 PM
 - Renaissance private Island
 - Facebook Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino

Thursday 27

World Tourism Day Conference 2018

- To celebrate World Tourism Day the Aruba Tourism Authority will be holding a conference called Tourism & Digital Transformation, how it impacts our lives. With international speakers Daniel Newman and Sam Sheffer.
- From 8:30 AM till 11 AM
- Renaissance Convention Center, Oranjestad
- Facebook Aruba Tourism Authority



Friday 28

Family Movie Night

- Enjoy a night watching the movie "A wrinkle in Time", eating some snacks, having some refreshments and most important enjoy some family time.
- From 6:45 PM
- YMCA, Sanicolas
- Facebook YMCA Aruba



Saturday 29

Experience Sanicolas

- Ready to experience something different on your Saturday outing, consider San Nicolas...a short distance away...but a world of difference! A day filled with lots of activities, museum bus tour, good food, Sani market, arts & crafts and so much more.
- Starts at 9 AM TILL 1 PM
- SANICOLAS
- Facebook Experience Sanicolas

Sunday 30

Aruba Reef Care project 2018

- Heroes of all kinds will rise to clean up Aruba's coastline. We all know that Aruba has beautiful beaches & a colorful reef. However, there is a strong reason for the recent impending products ban for Aruba, as waste is mingling with our nature! While official investigations towards our waste impact continue, there is something that you can do now!
- From 8 AM till 12 PM
- Neptali Henriquez Park, Oranjestad
- Facebook Aruba Reef Care Foundation



Monday 01

Manic Monday Talent Show

- Manic Monday and Gang di Arte unites to create a competition where they seek for Aruba's next big talent.
- From 7 PM till 9:30 PM


- Cas di Cultura, Oranjestad
- Facebook Manic Monday Talent Show

Tuesday 02

Soul and Mantra Singing on the beach

- What to expect? Singing meditative but also celebrative. Feel free to try it out, and discover something new about yourself. No need to have singing experience nor do you or your family have to admire your voice. This type of singing is intended to open your heart, go within and find what likes to be heard.
- From 7 PM till 8:30 PM
- Eagle Beach, Noord
- Facebook Gea Souge Life Coaching





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2018 | 9AM TO 1PM

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In this Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018, file photo, Minnesota Vikings' Everson Griffen reacts during the first half of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers, in Green Bay, Wis.
Associated Press

Vikings DE Everson Griffen remains out with mental health trouble

By DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Pro Football Writer
EAGAN, Minn. (AP) — Last week, the Minnesota Vikings were concerned enough about Everson Griffen's state of mind that they barred the three-time Pro Bowl defensive end from practice until he had a mental health evaluation.

After a scary series of incidents on Saturday, Griffen remained away from the team on Tuesday and out of action indefinitely. Coach Mike Zimmer said Griffen would not travel with the team to play the Los Angeles Rams on Thursday.

"In the five years that I've been here I've always loved Everson and the effort that he puts out, the work that he does, the chance to count on him in game time and even in practice. He's always been a really, really good model for us, and obviously he's going through some tough times now."

Continued on Page 21

BUCS STOPPED HERE



Steelers edge Buccaneers for first win

Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Dirk Koetter, right, looks at the scoreboard as quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick (14) walks off the field during the first half of an NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press
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Happy times for Tiger Woods heading to a Ryder Cup

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVE-LINES, France (AP) — Tiger Woods paused on his walk toward the 18th green at Le Golf National and threw his head back in laughter.

These are happy times for Woods, regardless of whatever Bryson DeChambeau said to cause such a reaction Tuesday.

Now if he can get that to translate in the Ryder Cup. For all his amazing feats in golf — 80 victories on the PGA Tour, the most recent on Sunday at the Tour Championship after returning following a fourth back surgery that threatened to end his career — Woods has been on only one winning team at the Ryder Cup. That was nearly 20 years ago and required a record comeback on the final day. His own record is 13-17-3, a product of being on six losing teams.

"Looking back on my entire Ryder Cup career, that's not something that I have really enjoyed and I've really liked seeing," Woods said. "I've played a lot of matches. Of those seven previous Ryder Cups, I've sat out one session. ... My overall Ryder Cup record, not having won as a player since 1999, is something that hopefully we can change. We haven't won as a U.S. squad here in 25 years on foreign soil. So hopefully, that will change this week, as well."

Woods used to get defensive about his mark, pointing out that no one could recite the Ryder Cup record of Jack Nicklaus (17-8-3 during an era of U.S. dominance), but that everyone knew Nicklaus had won 18 majors.

One element he faced every two years was trying to be on a team of 12 players even as the golfing world saw it as Tiger Woods and 11 other Americans. He was 21 when he played his first Ryder Cup in 1997 and already was the sport's biggest star.

Back in the Ryder Cup as a player for the first time in six years, Woods is in the spotlight again.

One year ago, he was riding in a cart as a vice captain in the Presidents Cup, having played one PGA Tour event in two years with no certainty there would be another. And then he made yesterday look like yesteryear with a wire-to-wire win at the Tour Championship, his first trophy in more than five years and the feeling that more was to come.

Woods still hasn't grasped the significance of the victory at East Lake. He didn't know the TV ratings because he headed straight to France on the charter flight, had a team dinner and then was out in the chill of Tuesday morning for his first look at Le Golf National.

"Are they good?" Woods asked to plenty of laughter. "Sorry, I've been a little bit busy, so I haven't looked." NBC Sports Group said the final round was the highest-rated Tour Championship on record dating to 1991. U.S. captain Jim Furyk has tried to tone down the hype, though it was hard to ignore that it was a "boost for everyone, and I think for Tiger in general, it's cool."

"The arms up in the air on 18, it looks like that's going to be a cover on maybe about 100 magazines this week," Furyk said. "You could tell it was significant for him. I also know how important this event is to all 12 guys and to Tiger, as well. ... Being a guy with his status and that number of wins, he can flip the page and turn his attention to this week. So he's out there grinding and trying to help this team as much as he can."

Woods and DeChambeau, one of three Ryder Cup rookies on the U.S. team, have been looked upon as a potential partnership for Le Golf National. Furyk said not to read anything into the way he sent off his players in groups of four for the first official practice round. He said Tuesday was more about learning the golf course because only six U.S. players have seen it. Phil Mickelson, who also has a losing record (18-20-7),

joined Woods, DeChambeau and Patrick Reed. Mickelson then caused a small stir by saying he and Woods would welcome another chance to play together, even though their 2004 partnership at Oakland Hills resulted in two losses and plenty of ridicule in the years that followed. Will it happen?

"I do have an idea of what Captain Furyk is thinking, yeah," Mickelson said with a grin, allowing for no other detail.

The best personal mark Woods ever had at the Ryder Cup was the only other time he was a captain's pick, going 3-1 in Wales. He failed to win a match in his most recent Ryder Cup, going 0-3-1 at Medinah when Europe rallied to win on the last day. Woods, however, is more than six years removed from the Ryder Cup. He has gone through four surgeries that kept him out of 10 majors and two Ryder Cups, though he comes to France with a winning feeling — not just the Tour Championship, but his role as a vice captain at Hazel-



Tiger Woods of the U.S. plays from a bunker on the 3rd hole during a practice session at Le Golf National in Guyancourt, outside Paris, France, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018.

Associated Press

fine two years ago during a rare American victory. The next generation of Americans looked up to him as the legendary figure who inspired them when

they were kids. Now he is back to being their peer, feeling as much a part of the team as ever, no matter whose picture is on the cover of magazines. □

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Roethlisberger shines, Steelers hold off Buccaneers 30-27

By **FRED GOODALL**

AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — It was not the way Ben Roethlisberger would draw it up, but the Pittsburgh Steelers will take it.

In desperate need of a win, the two-time defending AFC North champions capped a tumultuous week in which star receiver Antonio Brown made headlines by shouting at an assistant coach on the sidelines and getting into a spat on social media with a 30-27 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday night. The Steelers (1-1-1) built a 20-point lead held on for their first win despite not scoring after halftime.

"I don't feel like we had the ball much in the second half. Three possessions maybe. We need to do a better job putting it away," Roethlisberger said.

"At the end of the day we just wanted to get out of here with a win," cornerback Joe Haden added. "It wasn't a good-looking win at all. They made a lot of plays on us, but at the end we made some big stops." Roethlisberger threw for 353 yards and three touchdowns, with all but 80 yards of that production coming while the Steelers were building a 30-10 halftime lead.

Vance McDonald scored on a 75-yard pass play and finished with four catches for 112 yards. Brown and Ryan Switzer also had first-half TD receptions for Pittsburgh, which had been winless through two games for the first time since 2013. The Pittsburgh defense did its part, too, forcing four turnovers, including three first-half interceptions of Ryan Fitzpatrick, the 35-year-old journeyman who threw for 819 yards



Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown (84) celebrates after his 27-yard score against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, in Tampa, Fla.

and eight touchdowns in two victories to begin Tampa Bay's season.

Fitzpatrick, the only player in NFL history to open a season with consecutive games with over 400 yards passing and four touchdowns, tried his best to create "FitzMagic" again in his third start in place of the suspended Jameis Winston. He led a long field goal drive in the third quarter, and then tossed fourth-quarter TD passes of 4 yards to Chris Godwin and 24 yards to Mike Evans to rally the Bucs (2-1) within 30-27 with 5:43 remaining.

"We obviously dug ourselves a pretty big hole," Fitzpatrick said. "The great thing to me coming out of this game is again the belief in the huddle in the second half and guys not

wavering and not blinking and having the feeling the whole time that we were going to come back and win the game."

The Bucs got the ball back with just over three minutes left; however, the Steelers forced a punt and Roethlisberger ran out the clock. Fitzpatrick, who sacked three times, finished 30 of 50 for 411 yards and three TDs. "We just did so many things in the first half of that game that we haven't been doing, so many things to beat ourselves," Bucs coach Dirk Koetter said.

"I'm really proud of the way we fought. You're down three touchdowns or three scores at halftime, it's not easy to come back in this league," Koetter added. "We gave ourselves a chance there at the end

and just couldn't pull it off." Roethlisberger was 30 of 38 with one interception, completing nine passes to JuJu Smith-Schuster for 116 yards and six to Brown for 50 yards.

The quarterback's on-field chemistry with Brown appeared fine in the first game since Brown responded to a former team employee on social media by suggesting the club trade him if it wants to find out how productive he can be without Roethlisberger.

Fitzpatrick threw interceptions on three consecutive pass attempts during one stretch of the second quarter. The first stopped a promising drive at the Steelers' 6, and linebacker Bud Dupree returned the last one 10 yards for a touchdown that put the Steelers

up 23-7.

Roethlisberger also turned a fumble into a 27-yard TD pass to Brown and moved the Steelers 75 yards in nine plays just before the half to make it 30-10 on his 1-yard scoring pass to Switzer.

FLAGS, FLAGS, FLAGS

The teams combined for five roughing-the-passer penalties, most in an NFL game since 2001, as fans around the league continue to gripe about flags being thrown for what appear to be routine tackles. Pittsburgh was flagged three times for hits on Fitzpatrick, and the Bucs were called twice for roughing Roethlisberger. In all, the Steelers were penalized 13 times for 155 yards. Tampa Bay had nine penalties for 80 yards. The Bucs also had a holding penalty that wiped out what would have been an 80-yard punt return for a TD by DeSean Jackson.

RING OF HONOR

Hall of Fame coach Tony Dungy, who won a Super Bowl ring as player with the Steelers and as a first-time head coach transformed Tampa Bay from a laughingstock into a championship contender, was inducted into the Bucs Ring of Honor at halftime.

He's the 12th member, joining Hall of Famers Lee Roy Selmon, Warren Sapp and Derrick Brooks; coaches John McKay and Jon Gruden; late owner Malcolm Glazer; and players John Lynch, Mike Alstott, Doug Williams, Jimmie Giles and Paul Gruber.

Dungy and his wife, Lauren, accompanied Tampa Bay's captains to midfield for the coin toss. Three of the couple's children — Jade, Justin and Jason — led the team out of the tunnel as the honorary flag runners. □

Hammer vs Shields: Women's blockbuster fight is on

By NOAH TRISTER

AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Claressa Shields offered reporters a catchy play on words to promote her next fight.

The two-time Olympic champion will face unbeaten Christina Hammer of Germany in a middleweight unification bout Nov. 17 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The fight is a blockbuster between two of boxing's stars, and the two names lend themselves to some clever lines.

"Claressa Shields versus Christina Hammer," Shields said. "Make sure you guys use the shield, make sure you guys use the hammer. Make sure you guys use the graphics. You could make up all kind of stuff with this, OK?"

This fight may not need many promotional gimmicks. It's been anticipated for a while. Shields (6-0) holds the IBF and WBA titles at 160 pounds, and Ham-



At left, in a March 11, 2017, file photo, Claressa Shields poses with her North American Boxing Federation middleweight championship belt after she defeated Szilvia Szabados, in Detroit. At right, in an Aug. 3, 2017, file photo, five-time world boxing champion Christina Hammer, of Germany, holds her title belts during a news conference, in Detroit.

Associated Press

mer (23-0) has the WBC and WBO belts.

Hammer has dominated the women's middleweight division throughout this decade, but Shields has been

impressive since turning pro. Shields beat Hanna Gabriels in Detroit in June. Hammer also fought on that card and made her way into the ring after

Shields' fight, leading to a bit of a commotion. Shields said in a conference call Tuesday she has no hard feelings about that incident, but there was still the

usual trash talk between the fighters.

"I'm a long-time champion. I have a lot of experience," Hammer said. "I want to fight her and to show that I'm the real champion."

"She can knock it off. She can just knock it all the way off," Shields responded. "Her experience — it shows that I have great experience to only have six fights and be on her supposed level already. I'm above her level."

It didn't have anything to do with the fight against Hammer, but another interesting moment in the conference call came when Shields was asked who her role models are in sports. She said tennis star Serena Williams used to be one, but not as much anymore. "I was able to meet Serena in the '16 Olympics and she was just not nice," Shields said, lobbing some trash talk in an unexpected direction. □

Everson Griffen

Continued from Page 18

Griffen was already going to miss the game last Sunday against the Buffalo Bills because of a nagging issue with his knee, but even without the injury he was in no condition to play.

According to police in Minnetrista, the Minneapolis suburb where he lives, Griffen was making comments about people trying to kill him. He was eventually transported by ambulance to an area hospital for his well-being, despite jumping out of the vehicle at one point during a brief stop for crossing deer.

He was never arrested or suspected of committing any crimes.

"I just hope for the best for him," Zimmer said. "In the long run he's a really good kid."

According to the police report on Saturday:

— Vikings director of security Kim Klawiter requested a welfare check for Griffen's wife, Tiffany, and their three children after a recent pattern of erratic

and disruptive behavior at team headquarters had caused concern. Griffen had arrived for practice that morning and was told he couldn't participate.

— Officer Michael Kokesh met with Griffen's wife, who told him that Griffen got up in the middle of the night on Sept. 16 and left the house, which he has done before in attempt to deal with "demons in his head." Griffen was gone for several days during the week, at one point sending his wife a text message that referenced suicide.

He's not on medication, she said, but should be.

— Reached by Kokesh on his phone, Griffen said he had no thoughts about harming himself or anyone else.

— Kokesh spoke with Vikings executive director of player development Les Pico, who said Griffen had been exhibiting paranoid behavior and irrational and rapid speech but did not believe he was at risk for harming himself or others. Pico met Griffen at a down-



In this Saturday, Aug. 11, 2018, file photo, Minnesota Vikings defensive end Everson Griffen watches during the first half of an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos, in Denver.

Associated Press

town Minneapolis hotel, where he had also created a disturbance in the lobby and threatened violence. — Griffen showed up shirtless outside the house of teammate Trae Waynes, who lives on the same street.

A little later, Griffen left his vehicle at a gas station and rode home with a man who said he didn't know Griffen and was shaking when he met officers waiting outside Griffen's house.

— After Griffen agreed to the hospital visit, officers summoned by paramedics after the stop for the deer found him walking on the side of a county road. Griffen told them he was afraid "someone was going to shoot him."

The officers convinced him to return to the ambulance and lie down on a stretcher inside.

Asked if he believed the Vikings did enough to ensure Griffen received a psychi-

atric evaluation, Zimmer said that wasn't his area of expertise.

He did, however, praise the organization's approach to providing off-the-field support for any life situation.

"Our owners do an unbelievable job of giving these players all the resources that they need. If we have to bring in experts from some other place or he has to go see other people, our owners are outstanding with that," Zimmer said.

"So we're going to do everything possible that we can, not only for Everson, but to help everybody on our team and, quite honestly, with their families as well."

Stephen Weatherly has taken the 30-year-old Griffen's place in the starting lineup. Their cubicles are next to each other in the locker room.

"It's tough. I would much rather have him here, not only as a teammate but as someone that I lean on personally and stuff like that," Weatherly said.

"But we're going to continue to play hard, and we're going to do it for him." □

Athletics clinch postseason spot; Yanks lose Hicks to injury

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — The Oakland Athletics clinched their first playoff berth in four years, then beat the Seattle Mariners 7-3 Monday night behind Khris Davis' major league-leading 46th home run.

Jonathan Lucroy, Jed Lowrie and Matt Chapman also homered for the A's, assured no worse than an AL wild card.

Oakland was one out into the game when Tampa Bay was eliminated with a 4-1 loss to the New York Yankees. The A's went on to win after Chapman broke a 3-3 tie with a two-run drive in the seventh off Shawn Armstrong (0-1).

Coming off three straight last-place finishes in the AL West, the A's (95-62) are 4½ games behind AL West-leading Houston. They trail the Yankees by 1½ games for home-field advantage should they meet in a wild-card matchup.

Robinson Cano and Dee Gordon homered for the Mariners.

The Athletics will be making their fourth playoff appearance in the last seven seasons, all under manager Bob Melvin, and their 27th overall. The A's lost at Kansas City 9-8 in 12 innings in the 2014 wild-card game, the last time Oakland



Oakland Athletics' J.B. Wendelken is doused in the clubhouse celebration after clinching a wild card spot after the baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, in Seattle.
Associated Press

reached the postseason.

YANKEES 4, RAYS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) —

Aaron Hicks injured his left hamstring running up the first-base line in the Yankees' win, another concern for New York heading into next week's AL wild-card game.

Hicks' 11th-inning double on Saturday drove in Didi Gregorius with the run that clinched a postseason berth, and on Sunday the Yankees learned Gregorius

tore cartilage in his right wrist during his headfirst slide across the plate.

Hicks, who had fouled a pitch off his left ankle just before the double, left Monday's game with left hamstring tightness.

New York's win eliminated the Rays and ensured a postseason berth for Oakland, which is likely to be the wild-card opponent but also is still alive in the AL West race. At 96-60, New York is assured of its best

record since going 97-65 in 2011.

Brett Gardner had a go-ahead single off Ryan Yarbrough (15-6) in a two-run fifth inning.

New York used eight pitchers and gave its starters extra rest ahead of the postseason, and the Rays managed just two hits — both off Sonny Gray (11-9).

RED SOX 6, ORIOLES 2

BOSTON (AP) — Boston broke a 106-year-old franchise record with their

106th victory, clinching home-field advantage through the postseason thanks to a pair of hits from major league batting leader Mookie Betts.

Nathan Eovaldi struck out 10 hapless Baltimore batters to assure the Red Sox of the best record in baseball this season and home-field advantage through the World Series, if they make it that far. For now, they know they will open the Division Series at Fenway Park on Oct. 5 against the winner of the AL wild-card game between the New York Yankees and most likely Oakland.

The 1912 Red Sox won 105 games in their first season at Fenway Park.

The Orioles (45-111), who matched a franchise record for losses set by the 1939 St. Louis Browns, became the sixth AL team and the first since the 2003 Tigers to lose 111 games, falling 60½ games behind Boston (106-51) in the division. It's the first time since 1939 that teams separated by 60 wins in the standings have played each other.

Six days after throwing six scoreless innings against the Yankees, Eovaldi (6-7) allowed one run on four hits in five innings, walking none but uncorking a pair of wild pitches. □



In this Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2018, file photo, Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia speaks to the media in the dugout prior to a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

By **GREG BEACHAM**

AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) —

Mike Scioscia says he would like to keep managing next year.

The longtime skipper of the Los Angeles Angels has been widely expected to step down after the regular season concludes this week. His comments to

Angels' Mike Scioscia says he wants to keep managing

KLAA-AM radio Monday night suggested he is open to returning for a 20th season in the Angels' dugout, or perhaps a managing job elsewhere in baseball.

When asked directly if he wanted to keep managing, Scioscia said: "I'd like to."

"We'll continue to evaluate things this week," Scioscia added. "I'll speak with (Angels owner) Arte (Moreno) and speak with (general manager) Billy (Eppler), and kind of come to a decision. But I think that if you love something, you want to continue to keep doing

it. If you can, great. And if it doesn't happen, so be it. But I love the dugout."

Scioscia, who will turn 60 in November, is the longest-tenured manager in the majors by seven seasons, and he earned his 1,600th career victory earlier this year. Since taking over the team for the 2000 season, he has led the Angels to six AL West titles and their only World Series championship back in 2002.

"I love managing," Scioscia said. "I love the dugout. I love the challenge of getting the team and getting them going in the right di-

rection. That's something I thoroughly enjoy."

But Scioscia's lucrative 10-year contract ends this season, and the Angels have made the playoffs just once in the last nine years despite annual high-priced rosters. They haven't won a postseason game since 2009, a stretch that covers the entire concurrent Angels careers of Mike Trout and Albert Pujols.

The Angels opened a season-ending homestand against Texas on Monday night. They will miss the playoffs for the fourth consecutive year. □

Kershaw, Dodgers beat D-backs 7-4 to maintain NL West lead

By The Associated Press
PHOENIX (AP) — David Freese homered and had three hits to back Clayton Kershaw as Los Angeles maintained its lead in the NL West.

Manny Machado had two RBIs for the Dodgers, including a groundout deep into the shortstop hole with the bases loaded in the seventh inning that brought in Yasiel Puig with the go-ahead run. Los Angeles added three ninth-inning runs to stay 1½ games ahead of Colorado.

The defending NL champions have won six of seven. Freese finished 3 for 4 with two RBIs. Kershaw (9-5) pitched six innings, allowing three runs and six hits. He struck out six and walked one.

Ketel Marte homered and drove in three runs, all off Kershaw, and A.J. Pollock went deep against closer Kenley Jansen in the ninth. The Diamondbacks, already eliminated from playoff contention, have lost four straight and eight of nine.

Andrew Chafin (1-6) took the loss.

ROCKIES 10, PHILLIES 1
DENVER (AP) — Jon Gray



Arizona Diamondbacks' Christian Walker, right, gets off balance while striking out as Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Yasmani Grandal, left, reaches over to tag Walker during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, in Phoenix.

pitched seven crisp innings and drew a bases-loaded walk as part of a five-run third to lead Colorado over Philadelphia.

The Rockies won their fourth straight game since being swept at Dodger Stadium. They closed within a half-game of St. Louis for the second wild card after the Cardinals lost to Milwau-

kee.

Gray (12-8) got the start when Tyler Anderson was scratched due to shoulder tightness. The right-hander's one costly mistake was an elevated fastball that Rhys Hoskins hit for a homer in the seventh when the game was out of reach.

David Dahl lined a two-run homer in the fourth, Tony

Wolters drew four walks and Charlie Blackmon had a single to extend his hitting streak to a career-best 16 games for Colorado. Nolan Arenado and Gerardo Parra delivered run-scoring singles off Zach Eflin (11-8). All-Star shortstop Trevor Story returned to the starting lineup after missing a week with inflammation in

his right elbow and made an immediate impact. He had two hard-hit doubles to center. Phillies left fielder Aaron Altherr ran into the fence while trying to catch Dahl's homer. The side of Altherr's face slammed into the padded fence, his hat flying off. Altherr eventually limped to a cart and was taken away. He sprained his right big toe and bruised a knee.

BREWERS 6, CARDINALS 4
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Eric Thames scored on reliever Bud Norris' throwing error in the eighth inning and the Milwaukee Brewers improved their playoff positioning by topping St. Louis.

Ryan Braun homered and Christian Yelich drove in two runs as Milwaukee won for the fourth time in five games. The Brewers (90-67) opened a three-game lead over St. Louis for the top spot in the wild-card standings and pulled within 1 1/2 games of the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs, who lost to Pittsburgh.

Corbin Burnes (7-0), the seventh of nine Milwaukee pitchers, got two outs for the win, and Corey Knebel worked the ninth for his 16th save. □

Associated Press

Evans fired as San Francisco Giants general manager

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Bobby Evans was fired Monday as the San Francisco Giants' general manager.

The team said Evans will be reassigned, with responsibilities to be determined. The move came as the Giants began the final week of the season at 72-84, their second straight losing record.

"I made the decision, really," CEO Larry Baer said. "At this point, we needed to take a fresh approach to baseball operations."

The club will start a search for a new head of baseball operations.

"We're looking for someone that sort of is the 'next gen' general manager, if you

will," Baer said.

"People will say 'new school versus old school,' people will say 'analytics versus scouting,' and I think that the new, next-generation general manager is able to do both, and will bring both to the mix."

Evans was hired by the Giants in 1994, became vice president of baseball operations in 2009 under general manager Brian Sabean and was promoted to GM in April 2015 when Sabean became executive vice president of baseball operations.

"He's a big part of our family tree," Sabean said. "I came into the organization in '93 and I believe Bobby shortly thereafter in '94. We've not

only grown together in endeavors professionally with the Giants, we've grown together as people and it's a big part of your lifetime."

The Giants won World Series championships in 2010, 2012 and 2014. They made the playoffs again in 2016, but are 166-224 since taking a major league-best 57-33 record into the All-Star break that year.

Baer said the team is open to female candidates.

"Sure," he responded. "I haven't considered anybody yet, since we're just making this announcement now, but we would consider, of course, females."

Baer deflected the notion that the Giants were blaming Evans for their recent



In this Jan. 19, 2018, file photo, San Francisco Giants general manager Bobby Evans during a news conference in San Francisco.

Associated Press

struggles.

"Brian Sabean and Bobby Evans at the helm over 26 years, I would match their record with pretty much anybody in the sport and even beyond the sport," Baer said. "So when we start talking about blame and start talking about that kind of thing, I mean I un-

derstand the question . you want to blame the last year and this year to some extent, but I don't step back and think of this in terms of blame, I think of this in terms of it's been an incredible run, an incredible journey, but it is time now to create the next — to create the blueprint of the future." □



By: Dr Carlos Viana

Dementia is the umbrella designation for severe loss of intellectual ability and personality integration, due to the loss or damage of brain function. Dementia comes from the Latin word "madness" and "out of one's mind". Brain dysfunction has been around since the dawn of recorded history. Dementia is a state of emotional and mental deterioration. A sad position for family members, I know, my father Manuel, a vibrant entrepreneur suffered from bouts of dementia the last six years of his life.

The World Health Organization states that dementia has become global epidemic. Every year 7.7 million new cases of dementia are diagnosed. 63% of people living with dementia live in low- and middle-income countries where access to social protection, services, support and care are very limited or even, intentionally denied.

Memory loss is a common symptom of dementia. However, memory loss by itself does not mean you have dementia. People with dementia have problems with two or more brain functions, such as memory and language. Although dementia is common in elderly people, it is not part of normal aging. The different names of brain diseases are named for doctors who first describe the symptoms affecting a specific part of the brain. Names include: Alzheimer, Parkinson's, Multiple sclerosis, or Lou Gering Disease, but they all produce dementia that is caused by other brain problems like a brain tumor, al-

cohol and drug abuse, or after a stroke.

Sadly, more and younger people are being diagnosed with dementia. In the 1970's in the United States, fast food chains churning out junk food, processed meat and grains grown using nitrogen-containing fertilizers became our new reality. Sales increased more than eight times from 1970 to 2005. Aided by the new marketing business and adding these new processed grains to foods, processed grain consumption increased 5 times during this 25-year period! Interestingly, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and fatty liver disease also increased during this period, even though medical science and health care steadily improved. As a certified clinical nutritionist, I have personally witnessed the relationship between diabetes and liver problems and diet and lifestyle.

Twenty years ago I was horrified to see high levels of lead when testing patients for toxic heavy metals. Our campaign to prohibit the sale of leaded gasoline brought almost instant improvement, lowering the amount of lead found in patients tested. Signs and symptoms usually don't appear until dangerous amounts have accumulated. Of the many symptoms, decline in mental functioning is most apparent. Babies who are exposed to lead before birth will have learning difficulties and slowed growth.

Another metal to be concerned about, aluminum generates more than \$75 billion a year in the US industry alone. Although denied as "inconclusive", medical studies do show increased levels of aluminum in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease. Aluminum has long been known to be poisonous to your nervous system. Evidence shows chronic exposure is a factor in many neurological diseases, including dementia, autism, and Parkinson's disease. Aluminum is to your central nervous system as cigarette smoke is to your lungs.

Scientists are clear that toxic metals damage brain tissue and lead to degenerative disease. To lower your risk, lower the use of toxic products. With the amount of chemicals and toxic heavy metals in cigarettes, smokers have more than double the risk of non-smokers of developing Alzheimer's. Common products containing aluminum include, cooking pots, aluminum foil, aluminum containing; toothpaste, underarm deodorant, vaccinations, processed foods (American cheese, baking powder, non-dairy coffee creamer, canned drinks), antacids, aspirin, many medications and cosmetics. Facto-

ries cause aluminum waste and what are they spraying in the air? Why is Monsanto developing plants that are aluminum resistant?

Aluminum and other heavy metals are stored in the brain, lungs, thyroid, bone and liver and may inhibit proper function and cause degeneration of the kidneys and liver. The liver cleans your blood, detoxifies chemicals and metabolizes drugs. If it is not working properly, it cannot make Glutathione, your body's most powerful antioxidant and detoxifying agent. Antioxidants help protect your brain.

Cholesterol lowering medicines (statin drugs) are hard on the liver. Your brain is the fattest organ in the body, made up of about 75% fat! Why would you want to eat a "fat-free" diet and lower cholesterol? Stating that cholesterol lowers your chance of cardiovascular disease is a lie. Of course, we want to have enough GOOD cholesterol, like deep-water fish, nuts, and virgin olive oil, even eggs cooked without bad fats or oils. Healthy high cholesterol foods protect you against infectious diseases, dying young, being depressed, and having more accidents. Most of us need more good fats than the typical diet give us. The best source of healthy fat is high quality vitamin E and balanced Omega 3,6,9 supplements. I give lecithin to all my brain patients. Mothers who take lecithin while pregnant help the baby's developing brain.

Get The Point! Risk factors for Brain disease are only 5-10% genetics. Lifestyle, environment and attitude count so much more. Attention to what we eat and how we prepare it as well as avoiding toxins can lower many risk factors. We can arrange a hair analysis to check for toxic heavy metals that may contribute to rapid aging, including brain problems. Dietary supplements that have been proven to be beneficial for your heart are also great brain protectors. Protecting your brain is not just for seniors. All ages can benefit from preventative measures. □

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How to live with your first credit card's limit

By **CLAIRE TSOSIE**
Associated Press

The thrill of getting approved for your first credit card might wear off — at least a little — when you see the news punctuating that congratulatory message: Your new credit limit is lower than you expected. So the mental math begins. Can you shop for groceries for a full month without flying too close to your limit of, say, \$500? Is it even possible to pay for a plane ticket? If the answer is a resounding "no," it's time to hash out a new game plan.

Instead of trying to use your credit card for everyday purchases, focus on establishing a history of on-time payments and responsible borrowing. The positive history you build now could pay off in the years ahead.

PAY ON TIME AND IN FULL
As a first-time credit card applicant, your credit history up until now might be a whole lot of nothing. So it's not surprising that issuers might start you out with a low limit. Banks are "just being careful because they don't know who you are," says Naeem Siddiqi, an author of books on credit



This June 10, 2015, file photo shows chip credit cards in Philadelphia. Instead of trying to use your credit card for everyday purchases, focus on establishing a history of on-time payments and responsible borrowing.

Associated Press

scoring and the director of credit scoring and decisioning at SAS, a company that provides major banks with analytics software for making credit decisions. The remedy: Use your credit card to build a positive credit history by making it a priority to pay every credit card bill on time and in full. That could improve your

chances of getting an automatic limit increase later on. Banks typically reevaluate your account every nine to 12 months, looking at factors such as scores, payments, the percentage of available credit you're using and how long you've been a customer, and may increase your limit at that point, Siddiqi says.

Missing payments or paying only the minimum, meanwhile, could thwart your progress toward establishing a positive credit history — and cause you to rack up interest charges and penalty fees.

"Typically, banks would be hesitant to give you a limit increase if all you're doing is paying the minimum and

missing payments — especially if your balance is near your limit," Siddiqi says.

KEEP YOUR BALANCES LOW
For some, getting a low limit is a rude surprise, like finding out you got a C on a test you thought you aced. For others, it's expected. Say, for example, you applied for a secured credit card, or a card backed by a security deposit. With such cards, your limit is typically equal to the deposit. If you put down a \$200 deposit, for example, you would get a \$200 limit. No matter how you got a low credit limit, it's now up to you to manage it. In part, that means keeping your balances low. Using too much of your available credit — which is easy to do with a low limit — can drive up your credit utilization ratio, or the percentage of available credit you're using, and sink your credit scores in a hurry.

To keep your scores healthy, a rule of thumb is to use no more than 30% of your credit card's limit at all times. On a card with a \$200 limit, for example, that would mean keeping your balance below \$60. The less of your limit you use, the better. Here's how you can keep your balance low:

- Make multiple payments each month. Your credit utilization ratio is based on what your balances are when your issuer reports them to the credit bureaus each month. □

US consumer confidence rises to 18-year high in September

By **PAUL WISEMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer confidence shot up to an 18-year high in September — good news for retailers as the holiday shopping season approaches.

The Conference Board, a business research organization, said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index climbed to 138.4 in September from 134.7 in August. This month's reading was the highest since September 2000.

The index measures consumers' assessment of current economic conditions and their outlook for the next six months. Both improved in September.

"These historically high confidence levels should continue to support healthy consumer spending, and

should be welcome news for retailers as they begin gearing up for the holiday season," said Lynn Franco, the Conference Board's director of economic indicators.

The U.S. economy grew at an annual pace of 4.2 percent from April through July, the fastest rate in nearly four years. And the unemployment is 3.9 percent, near a 50-year low.

The strong job market impressed Americans responding to the Conference Board survey: 45.7 percent said jobs were "plentiful" — most since January 2001.

"Knowing that the job market is strong, knowing that one has a regular paycheck, does wonders for confidence," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. □



In this Aug. 30, 2018, photo, a lot technician passes by a long line of unsold 2018 and 2019 Countryman models at a Mini dealership in Highlands Ranch, Colo.

Associated Press




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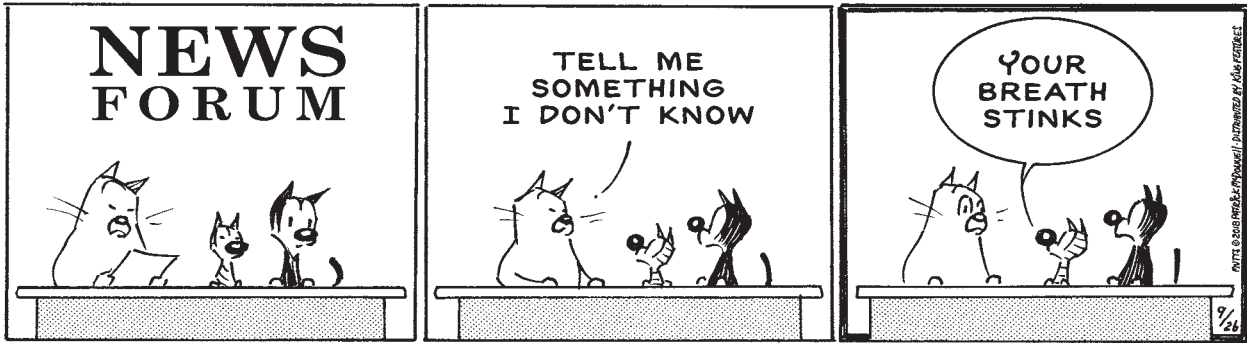
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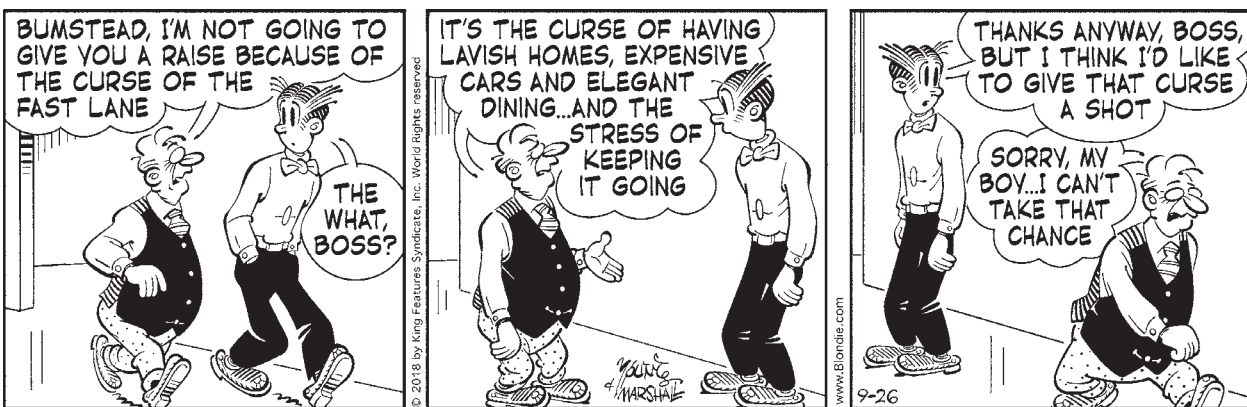
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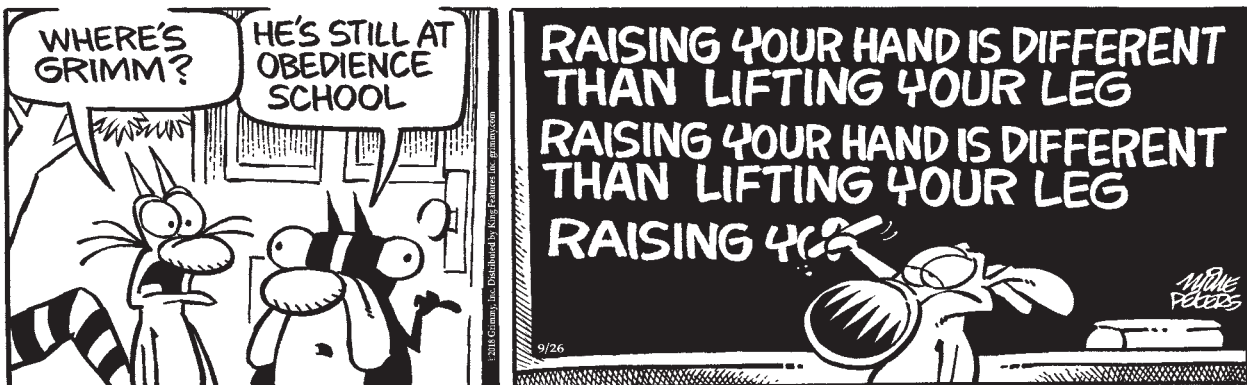
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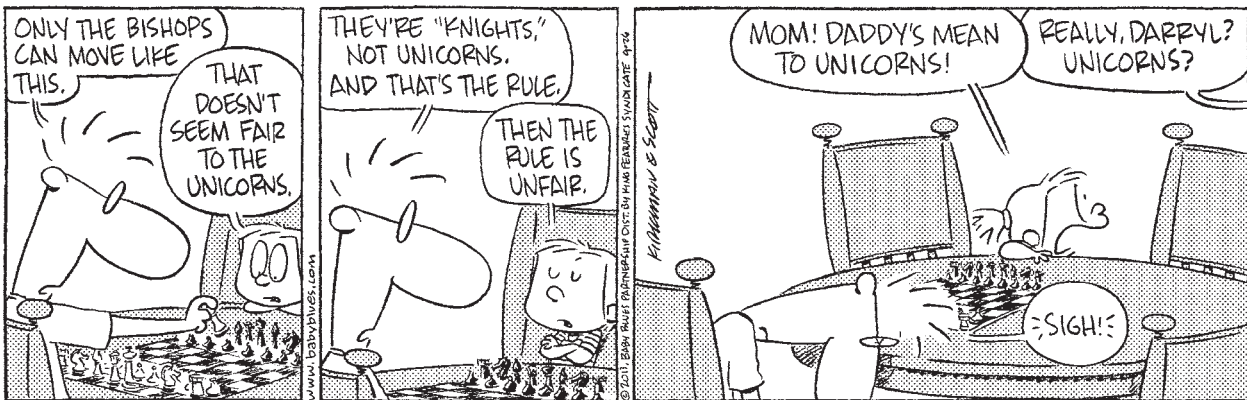
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3				4		
9			5		4			7
	4		3	7	9		2	
		8				1		
7		5				6		2
	1	9				5	8	
		4				7		
	5		4	3	7		1	
	6						4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/26

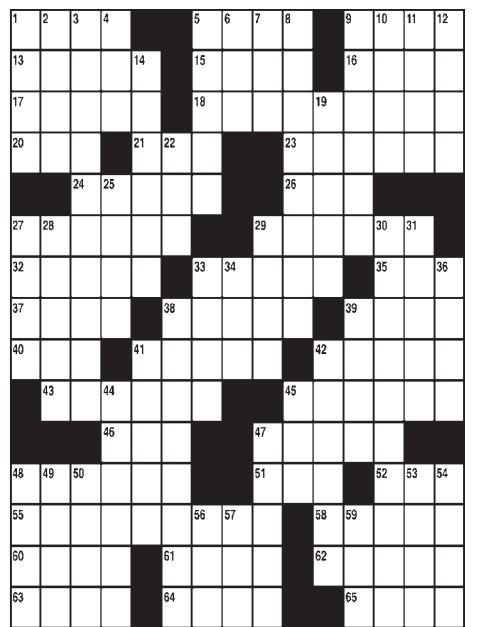
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	4	2	5	6	3	9	1	8
8	3	9	7	1	2	4	5	6
1	6	5	9	8	4	3	2	7
4	9	3	6	2	8	5	7	1
6	1	8	3	5	7	2	9	4
2	5	7	4	9	1	6	8	3
3	8	4	2	7	5	1	6	9
5	7	6	1	4	9	8	3	2
9	2	1	8	3	6	7	4	5

ACROSS

- 1 Nursery bed
5 ___ up; absorb
9 Man who lived in a garden
13 Type of eclipse
15 Look-alike
16 Danny DeVito
TV sitcom of old
17 Back ___ day; formerly
18 Make aware
20 Fraternity letter
21 Helpful hint
23 Visible fold
24 ___ and groans; complains
26 Berry or Norton
27 Obscure facts
29 Spring, for one
32 Expand
33 Diagram
35 Doggy doc
37 As comfortable ___ old shoe
38 Drain stoppers
39 Eye duct secretion
40 ___ up; arrange
41 Humiliation
42 Baseball's Yogi
43 Took ten
45 Elegant
46 Green vegetable
47 Cut of beef
48 "And So ___"; Billy Joel song
51 "___ a Small World"
52 Cry of discovery
55 Con artist; fraud
58 Idaho export
60 Vane direction
61 ___ off; dozes
62 Cook clams
63 Guacamole and salsa
64 Easy to handle
65 Catch sight of
- DOWN
- 1 Paper ___; staple alternative
2 Baseball scores
3 Frighten; bully



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/26/18

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

PIG	OCHER	SWAP
CHAR	PLACE	PAPA
SOSO	PATHS	ONES
PHOTOSHOP	ODDS	
MOSS	ELF	
SCHEME	RECESSES	
PAIRS	BELTS	PEA
ACTS	BEAMS	DIRT
RHO	SANDS	MARIA
SERPENTS	TUREEN	
HAD	TELL	
PLEA	APPEALING	
LUGS	NEARS	NEED
URGE	NOISE	GATE
MESS	ANDES	TAN

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9/26/18

- 41 Iron alloy
42 Explosions
44 Athletics
45 Rollaway bed
47 Dishwasher cycle
48 Frosted
49 Bangkok language
- 50 Struggle to breathe
53 Stack
54 Military force
56 ___ man; unanimously
57 High-ranking nav. officer
59 Gobbled up



This undated handout photo issued by Paignton Zoo shows a West Caucasian tur which got out of its enclosure at the zoo in Devon.

Associated Press

UK police warn about rare goat-antelope escaped from zoo

LONDON (AP) — British police warned the public Monday to stay away from a rare goat-antelope that has escaped from a zoo in western England. Official says the young female West Caucasian tur was likely in the woods near Paignton Zoo, about 200 miles southwest of London. Devon and Cornwall Police said Monday the horned beast could pose a danger if she is startled by people approaching her. Zoo officials say she became frightened and ran away when zookeepers

were moving the herd. Spokesman Phil Knowling says the zoo's main concern was bringing the animal back to safety. He said police are using a police drone with thermal imaging technology to try and located the animal. "She's probably very stressed, being away from the herd, and we just want to get her back safely as quickly as we can," he said. The West Caucasian tur is on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature endangered species list. □

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Is a hunt the answer when bears start getting bolder?

By PAT EATON-ROBB

CANTON, Conn. (AP) —

Tom Bradley had grown accustomed to seeing black bears walk through his Connecticut neighborhood, but this month he was alarmed to find something trying to turn a door-knob to enter his house.

He used his key fob to set off his car horn, to scare away whatever was in his garage. When he went outside, he saw a bear and two cubs that had been trying to get into his mudroom.

"I think what is happening is, the bears are learning," Bradley said. "It was sort of a step from going outside to get the garbage, to going into the garage where the cans are, and now they are moving into the homes because they have discovered that is where the food is." Bears have been encroaching on humans in record numbers this year in Connecticut, which has seen increases in the black bear population like other nearby states and is the only that one does not allow bear hunting. There have been 24 reports of bears breaking into homes and businesses in Connecticut this year, well above the yearly average of about six, said Paul Rego, a state wildlife biologist.

It's one of several states that have been grappling with how best to minimize encounters between bears and humans, including discussions of expanded hunts and improved garbage management systems.

Maine has the largest black bear population on the East Coast at about 36,000 animals, but the number of nuisance bear complaints in the state has held about steady, averaging about 500 per year. The Maine



In this July 18, 2018 photo provided by Julie Sonlin, a mother black bear and her cubs explore the yard of Steve and Julie Sonlin in Avon, Conn.

Associated Press

Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife said the number of complaints usually correlates to the abundance of natural foods, such as nuts and berries.

The state uses a popular fall hunting season to try to control the growth of the population. But Bob Humphrey, a wildlife biologist and hunter in the state, said it might be time to consider adding a spring hunt, because the bear population just keeps growing.

New Jersey restarted regulated bear hunting in 2003 after nearly three decades without one. But this year,

Gov. Phil Murphy barred black bear hunting on state-owned lands and said the state will pursue more nonlethal methods to manage the population, such as better garbage management policies.

Hunt supporters, just as John Rogalo, the vice president of the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, say the hunt has worked to teach bears to avoid humans and worries that trend will be reversed if the hunt is ended.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provides grants to counties, mostly for bear-resistant trash containers. Some of that grant money came from fees raised from a 2015 bear hunt, the only one the state has held in more than two decades.

In recent months, bears in Connecticut's suburbs have shredded a car's interior, wandered into a liquor store, even woken residents

in their own bedrooms.

"We have many cases where bears have become very comfortable living close to humans and not being impressed by barking dogs and yelling people," Rego said.

Bear encounters are up in some other states, as well. New York has received 1,282 nuisance bear reports this year, such as the animals getting into garbage or bird feeders, compared with 700 a year ago, the state Department of Environmental Conservation. Officials believe drought conditions earlier this summer, which led to fewer berries, may be a factor.

But drought wasn't an issue in Connecticut, Rego said. A study last year by the University of Connecticut showed the bears are actually choosing to make their homes near people.

As the bear population grows, the animals are finding perfect living conditions

in exurban areas, where there are plenty of woods but also homes every acre or two, providing access to easy food sources, said Tracy Rittenhouse, an assistant professor of wildlife ecology at UConn.

"We have this perfect mixture of forest and human houses and the bears are moving into these places," she said. "It's not people moving into where bears occur, it's bears moving into where people occur." Bears stop by the Steve and Julie Sonlin's home in Avon several times a year and have looked into the windows, grabbed a bag of birdseed from the garage, even taken a dip in their hot tub.

"They don't seem to be aggressive," Steve Sonlin said. "But they don't seem to be afraid. They seem to be indifferent."

When alerted to bears encroaching on homes, the Connecticut environmental department tries to dissuade the animals it captures from coming back by "hazing" them, shooting them with rubber bullets, bean bags or paint balls, and exposing them to loud noises, Rego said.

But, he said, bears are most often rewarded for living near people and seldom face a negative consequence. He would like Connecticut to open a hunting season on bears.

Recent legislation to introduce a bear hunt has failed in the legislature, with opposition from animal rights groups.

Some fear that without a hunt eventually there will be attacks on humans.

Bradley said he has already witnessed some close calls, such as recently when a mother bear found herself and her cubs between a neighbor's yard with a barking dog and another with a child playing in it. He alerted the child's mother, he said, and she took her child back inside the house.

"It's scary," he said. "Sooner or later, some child, some elderly person, some dog is going to walk out between a bear and her cub and it's going to be a disaster." □



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Mystery around disappearance of Chinese star Fan Bingbing

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — X-Men star Fan Bingbing's Beijing management office is dark and abandoned. Her birthday passed almost unremarked in China's hyper-adrenalized social media environment.

For one of China's best known stars and a rising Hollywood actress, Fan's vanishing is stunning, coming amid vague allegations of tax fraud and possibly other infractions that could have put her at odds with Chinese authorities.

Fan has starred in dozens of movies and TV series in China and is best known internationally for her role as Blink in 2014's "X-Men: Days of Future Past," a cameo in the Chinese version of "Iron Man 3," and star turns on the red carpet at Cannes as recently as May. She was booked to star with Penelope Cruz in the Hollywood film "355" and has a role in the upcoming Bruce Willis-Adrien Brody feature "Air Strike."

Yet for nearly three months, Fan hasn't been seen or heard from in public in any verifiable way.

One of China's wealthiest entertainers, Fan pulled down tens of millions of dollars for her roles, along with handsome sums in appearance fees and product endorsements. Some of those contracts may have landed her in hot water with the authorities.

Fan's name has been mentioned in reports about a reportedly common entertainment industry practice — an actor having a public contract stating an official salary and a private contract detailing the true, much higher payday. A talk show host, Cui Yongyuan had said in May that Fan had such an arrangement — which allegedly helps facilitate tax evasion — and revealed details that sparked a public outcry. Cui later apologized.

At Fan's management office in Beijing's Dongcheng district, doors are locked, the lights are out and a calendar hanging alongside posters advertising



In this March 21, 2017, file photo, Chinese actress Fan Bingbing poses after winning the Best Actress Award of the Asian Film Awards in Hong Kong.

Associated Press

Fan's film appearances is still turned to July. A worker at an office across the hall said she couldn't remember the last time she'd seen anyone enter the company premises.

Fan turned 37 on Sept. 16, but only a handful of entertainment notables sent greetings online, a stark break from the past when her birthday celebrations were lavish, well-attended affairs, marked last year by a public marriage proposal from boyfriend Li Chen.

An automatic birthday greeting on her once-active account on Weibo, China's main microblogging service, was apparently deleted by persons unknown.

Shi Shusi, a columnist and commentator on Chinese popular culture, suggests Fan's high profile was her undoing, having made her a target for officials wishing to set an example for would-be tax cheats amid China's slowing economy.

"Such a famous actress and no one knows her whereabouts. And no authorities have made any clarifica-

tions. This is the real suspense," Shi said.

Fan's disappearance even brought a message of concern from Hu Xijin, editor of the Global Times tabloid known for its hard-line pro-Communist Party nationalist opinions.

"A timely clarification and public notification of Fan Bingbing's status would also be beneficial to setting the record straight internationally," Hu wrote on his Weibo account on Sept. 15.

Back in June, Fan's production company denied Fan had ever signed a "yin-yang" contract, so named because of its dual natures. Fan, her production company and her agent could not be reached for more recent comment. Police rarely acknowledge such investigations are taking place until a conclusion has been reached.

Her disappearance had come as Chinese authorities seek to rein in high salaries for actors that can eat up much of the cost of a production. In June, regulators capped star pay at 40 percent of a TV show's

entire production budget and 70 percent of the total paid to all the actors in a film.

Though China has become the world's second-largest film market, authorities keep tight control on local productions, exercising final say over choice of cast, director and script. If Fan had stepped on official toes, it would be a simple task to retaliate by destroying her career, with Chinese authorities wielding broad powers to detain, interrogate and accuse citizens out of the public eye. Other celebrities have run afoul of authorities over drug use, excessive pay or tax issues, said Shaun Rein, managing director of China Market Research Group based in Shanghai.

"Then the government really cracks down hard and pretty much destroys their careers for several years if not forever," Rein said. Companies that bet big on a-list Chinese celebrities incur a "huge political risk," he said.

Known as a classical Chinese beauty with almond

eyes and porcelain skin, Fan, 36, usually maintains a prominent presence on Weibo, where she has more than 62 million followers. Her account has been largely dormant for weeks, however, with a July 26 "like" about a posting on her charitable foundation being the last activity prior to the deletion of her birthday notice. Photos on social media also appear to show her visiting a pediatric cardiac ward at a Shanghai hospital for a charity event on July 1.

The strongest clue to Fan's status may have been a Sept. 6 notice posted on the website of the Securities Daily, a newspaper published by the official Economic Daily. It stated that the local tax bureau had sent a notice to Fan's studio that she had been "placed under control" — a legal term for being held under investigation. The article was later deleted from the website.

Fan's disappearance has already taken a toll on her lucrative sideline as brand ambassador, throwing those companies' plans into disarray. Australian vitamin brand Swisse issued a statement saying it was suspending use of her image and "continuing to monitor the situation and hope that it is resolved in the near future."

British diamond giant De Beers, who signed with Fang just last year, appears to have already moved on: Another actress, Gao Yuanyuan, represented the company at a store opening last month in the ancient capital of Xi'an. Other firms she endorsed, from duty-free chain King Power to Louis Vuitton and Montblanc are also taking action.

"There's a lot more risk for celebrities in China than in the United States, because the government takes much more of a moral crackdown," said China Market Research's Rein. "So there's a greater risk for celebrities to get in trouble with the law and never be able to get a chance at redemption." □

Alaskan thriller 'Hold the Dark' is brutal and bleak

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

The Alaska tourism board can't be all that thrilled with Jeremy Saulnier's "Hold the Dark," a grueling but beautifully shot mystery about a small town where it seems the very best quality of life one can hope for is crippling depression. That would be at least manageable compared to what the characters are forced to endure in this film, which presents a series of escalating tragedies and atrocities with a dead-eyed nihilism that should only be reserved for first-year philosophy students.

Adapted from a novel by William Giraldi, "Hold the Dark" is about the fictional village Keelut, where wolves have been taking the town's children. A local mother, Medora Slone (Riley Keogh), is the latest to have her little boy go missing. With her husband off fighting in Iraq, she writes a letter to a wilderness expert, Russell Core (Jeffrey Wright), asking him to come out to Keelut to hunt and kill the wolf that she



This image released by Netflix shows Riley Keough, left, and Jeffrey Wright in a scene from "Hold the Dark."

Associated Press

believes has killed her child. There is something off about Medora, and it's not just grief. She is haunted and strange and speaks like a simple and sedated but poetic child whose wisdom is only accidental. When Core arrives at her door, she looks at him

quizzically. "You're old," she says, clasping the well-worn book he authored about living in the wild with wolves for year.

Core agrees to at least go out looking for the wolf, but one wonders why after he has an extremely disquiet-

ing encounter with Medora that night and then is told by a local villager the next morning that there is evil here and to go back where he came from.

In the forest, Core witnesses a pack of wolves eating their young, and back in

Keelut sees something far worse. What else could you expect from a town named after an evil Inuit spirit of death?

The film takes us next to the Middle East to meet Medora's husband, Vernon (Alexander Skarsgard), an emotionless soldier who will gun down the enemy without blinking, and even stab one of his own to stop a rape he happens to witness while walking by. An injury earns him a ticket home, where their son's body has been discovered and Medora has gone missing, which sets Vernon off on his own confusing and bloody journey.

The introduction of James Badge Dale's local cop Donald Marium gives the film some much-needed life, and someone poor Wright can finally play off of, but this is frustratingly short-lived.

Those familiar with Saulnier's work — his last was the hyper-violent "Green Room" — will not be surprised by the relentless gore in "Hold the Dark." □

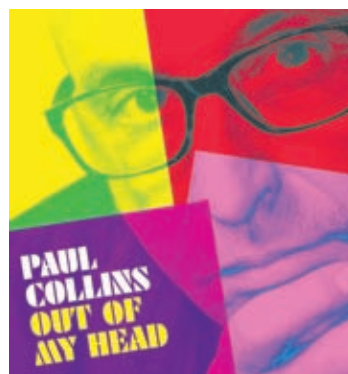
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SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 3

 NIGHT SCHOOL PG-13 KEVIN HART TIFFANY HADDISH MON/THU 4:35 7:00 9:25 FRI 4:35 7:00 9:25 11:50 SAT 2:10 4:35 7:00 9:25 11:50 SUN 2:10 4:35 7:00 9:25	 SMALL FOOT PG CHANNING TATUM JAMES CORDEN WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON/THU 4:30 6:40 8:50 FRI 4:30 6:40 8:50 11:00 SAT 2:20 4:30 6:40 8:50 11:00 SUN 2:20 4:30 6:40 8:50
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Paul Collins' power pop propels 'Out of My Head'



This cover image released by Alive Naturalsound Records shows "Out of My Head," a release by Paul Collins.

Associated Press

By **PABLO GORONDI**

Paul Collins, "Out of My Head" (Alive Naturalsound Records)

New York-born Paul Collins has been carrying the torch of power pop for decades in bands like The Nerves and The Beat as well as a lengthy solo career. In just 33 minutes, "Out of My Head" completes

an 11-stop journey that's loaded with melodies and hooks that make it one of the most enchanting records in his catalog.

Collins sings, plays guitars and drums and is assisted mainly by bassist Paul Stingo, who also adds delightful supporting vocals.

The jagged guitar solo on "In and Out of My Head," the opening track, mirrors the confusion of someone who is trapped in feelings from a past still haunting the present. Blink and you'll miss "Go," 95 seconds of energetic drums and strums backing a typically adolescent lyric that any heart-broken adult could sing, too.

In a curious case of coincidence, or something else, there are three songs in row each lasting 2:23 — the "Kind of Girl" could play as Charlie Brown makes

another failed attempt to approach the Little Red-Haired Girl; "Just Too Bad You're Leaving" has a perfectly melancholy melody; and "Emily" applies gentle Hollies-like harmonies to a theme of uncertainty and ambiguity. "You Belong to Me" describes an obsession with possession, and the noir-ish, bass-driven "Killer Inside" disturbingly suggests we're all walking around with one within us.

There's a more reflective approach on the last three songs, a sudden power cut that may have been more effective had "Lost Again," "Tick Tock" and "Beautiful Eyes" been interspersed among the faster ones.

"Out of My Head" could have been recorded anytime over the past 50 years and it's a blast that Collins is still making albums like it today. □

Dior and Gucci theatrically kick off Paris Fashion Week

By THOMAS ADAMSON

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Dance and theatricality were at the heart of Paris Fashion Week's first day of spring shows, as American stars Blake Lively and Shailene Woodley gushed over Dior's balletic presentation at the famed Longchamps racecourse. While, Gucci held its evening spectacle at France's answer to Studio 54, the iconic Le Palace — once the club that showcased fashion's most dramatic looks.

Here are some highlights from Monday:

DIOR'S ODE TO DANCE

To clouds of falling white petals, dancers clad in patterned bodysuits twisted gracefully to the clicking sound of a metronome.

This season, Dior turned to dance to produce the music and visuals for its spring-summer collection, infused with diaphanous, tulle-rich gowns.

The house enlisted the talents of choreographer Sharon Eyal for a sublime and balletic contemporary dance performance that ran throughout the spring-summer show.

It had the star of "Divergent" and "Big Little Lies," Shailene Woodley, floored.

"You marry dance with fashion and movement and you have a visceral, overwhelming experience,"



Actress Shailene Woodley leaves a photocall before Christian Dior's Spring/Summer 2019 ready-to-wear fashion collection presented in Paris, Monday, Sept.24, 2018.

Associated Press

Woodley told The Associated Press.

The runway hall was spacious enough to house the dozen roving dancers thanks to a marquee constructed in the grounds of the historic Longchamps racecourse, which dates to the 19th century and has been the site of some of former Dior designer John Galiano's most memorable couture shows.

BALLETIC LOOKS

As ethereal as a layer of tulle, with the corset replaced by a simple tank

top.

That's how the House of Dior described the key idea behind designer Maria Grazia Chiuri's soft and supple 87-piece show in monochrome and nude. Few risks were taken in this display.

But this didn't matter since the fashion, inspired by a dancer's wardrobe, was primarily aimed at being simple and feminine.

Jumpsuits, straps and cords featured on silhouettes that were either tight on the torso, evoking a leotard, or diaphanous and floaty,

channeling a tutu.

Ballet slippers evoked the dance tradition very literally, while open toe heels featured crisscross strapping in a take on a ballerina's shoe.

There was a softness to the entire show, accentuated by the gentle round shoulders that were set off romantically by dappled and misty lighting.

GUCCI AT LE PALACE

Following on from Gucci's May resort show in The Alyscamps, a famed Roman necropolis near Arles, the

Milan-based powerhouse continued its year-long love affair with France by hosting its spring show in Paris, exceptionally.

The one-off venue was carefully chosen: Le Palace, the iconic club-turned-theater that was inaugurated in 1978 by Grace Jones who sang La Vie en Rose atop a pink Harley Davidson.

The opportunity to show in this legendary space wasn't squandered by superlatively flamboyant designer Alessandro Michele. Actress Salma Hayek stared through opera binoculars at the stage from her balcony seat, as a surreal art-house film was projected on the stage.

Mid-way through the collection, French-English singer Jane Birkin rose suddenly from one of the seats and began singing, then sat back down.

The colorful and wacky men's and women's looks well captured the exuberance of the place dubbed France's Studio 54. It was once the stomping ground for figures such as Mick Jagger, Andy Warhol and Yves Saint Laurent.

The time dial was set to styles from between 1978 and 1985 — the heyday of the club.

Shades, large hats, oversize beads, sequins and glitter were ubiquitous. □

Celine Dion to end Las Vegas concert residency next year

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Las Vegas will soon have to find a way to go on without Celine Dion, who announced Monday that her concert residency will end next year.

The Canadian music star took to social media to confirm that she will leave Caesars Palace in June 2019, a decision that brought "mixed emotions." "Las Vegas has become my home and performing at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace has been a big part of my life for the past two decades," Dion said in a statement. "Every show

we do at the Colosseum throughout this fall, and right up until the final one, will feel very special."

She also expressed gratitude to all the fans who have come to watch her over the years.

Las Vegas has been home to her and her family since moving there in 2002. Her suburban Vegas home in Henderson is where her husband, Rene Angelil, died in January 2016 at age 73. Angelil, who was battling throat cancer, was also her manager. He is credited with molding Dion from a French-speaking ingénue into one of the world's most

successful singers. The couple shared three children.

His death drew an outpouring of sympathy from Nevada politicians like U.S. Sen. Harry Reid. At the time, Reid said the couple took a risk on Las Vegas when Dion agreed to take up residency at The Colosseum. Their support was always appreciated.

This will mark the end of Dion's second long-running residency at Caesars Palace. Dion has performed nearly 1,100 shows there since 2003. The first time was from 2003 until 2007. Her current residency began in 2011. □



In this May 21, 2017 file photo, Celine Dion poses in the press room at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Waterbed promoters trying to revive industry with new focus

By JENNIFER KAY

TAMARAC, Fla. (AP) — Waterbeds still elicit a wink, wink, nudge, nudge whenever they come up in conversation — but two pioneers of the industry in the United States are hoping to generate a new wave of popularity for the old furniture concept by using a wholesome new pitch.

Talking about temperature-control innovations and health-conscious consumers, inventor Charles Hall and City Furniture CEO Keith Koenig don't sound like wild and crazy guys. They aren't the ones who joke that millennials claiming to have never seen a waterbed likely were conceived in one.

They just sound enviably well-rested.

In the City Furniture showroom in Tamarac, a sign promises Afloat mattresses are "not your parents' waterbed." Koenig flops onto one, describing how it contours to his physique while also fitting into standard bedding and stylish bed frames.

He's not selling nostalgia, and he doesn't bring up waterbeds' notorious reputation until he's asked point-blank about it.

"We're not selling better sex. We're selling better sleep, more comfortable sleep, temperature control," Koenig said.

Hall fully agrees that health benefits are an Afloat's main selling points.

But he says he also told Koenig, "Come on, we can't be boring!"

Koenig, whose furniture



In this June 26, 2018, photo City Furniture CEO Keith Koenig, jumps onto a waterbed as he speaks during an interview with the Associated Press, in Tamarac, Fla.

Associated Press

store chain started as Waterbed City in 1971, has joined with Hall and former waterbed manufacturer Michael Geraghty to form Tamarac-based Hall Floation, which produces the Afloat waterbeds. They range from about \$2,000 to \$3,300 — adjusting for inflation, about the same cost as a waterbed in 1975.

They've traded product names Hall used in the 1970s such as The Pleasure Pit and Pleasure Island for the sober-sounding Firm and Pure models.

"Seeing a thing undulate like they did in the early 1970s, people looked at it and said, 'Well, this is an interesting ride,'" Hall said. "Now it's comfort first."

With materials unavailable in waterbeds' heyday, Hall said, "it's been kind of fun to reimagine all the things to

make the design better."

It's been 50 years since Hall initially designed a waterbed for a thesis project at San Francisco State University. By the mid-1980s, the Waterbed Manufacturers Association reported roughly \$2 billion in annual sales.

"People who might have bought it for Saturday nights, then started using it every night," Hall said.

Michael Dart was one of those 1980s customers in Rochester, New York. His waterbed didn't move with him to Florida several years later, and Dart said he missed its comforting warmth. When he went mattress shopping in June, he was thrilled to see the Afloat beds at City Furniture and bought the first one.

"It's like floating, it's so nice," Dart said at his Coral Springs home. "Everybody is like, 'Really, you got a waterbed?' And I'm like, 'Yeah, they're really good, they're better than they ever were.' I'm like a pop-culture hero now with the guys at work."

If those guys think Dart is swell, they should meet Jeri Lollis, who really seems to be living her best life with a waterbed. She bought her first one 40 years ago, about the same time she installed a mirror on her bedroom ceiling in her red-roofed mobile home in Hull, Georgia.

"I bought it because it was different, it was controversial, it was almost a conversation piece," said Lollis, a retired corrections deputy. Two years ago, for her 80th birthday, Lollis bought a new waterbed, and she still gets a kick out of the looks she gets about her bedroom setup. After hearing about the Afloat venture, she said she'd love to take Hall out to dinner to compare their adventures as waterbed owners.

"I hope they think I'm a femme fatale, you know? If there is any sexual innuendo, good! I'm kind of a weird, different person. I think anything's OK," Lollis

said. Koenig is quick to clarify that while one of Hall's waterbeds was covered in velvet and featured in Playboy magazine, the inventor was no Hugh Hefner.

"Charlie was a smart, conservative, laid-back, California design guy, and this industry that he grew, that he started, became pretty wild," Koenig said. "The parties at the trade shows in the '70s and '80s, well, I couldn't stay long, and Charlie was not that kind of guy either."

Koenig pulled the plug on waterbed sales at City Furniture stores about 20 years ago because he was unhappy with the available supply. But he's decided it's time to reintroduce them.

The first shipment of roughly 40 beds sold out within a month, Koenig said. City Furniture is extending its Afloat test market to nine of its 17 Florida stores, and Geraghty said Hall Floation website sales will soon be available.

Hall is curious to see who buys more, baby boomers or younger customers. So is Lynn Hardman of Southern Waterbeds and Futons in Athens, Georgia. He sold Lollis both her waterbeds, and he's eager to see something revitalize his industry.

"The millennials buying the futons, we can't get them interested in the waterbeds," said Hardman. □



In this June 26, 2018, photo an Afloat water bed is shown on display in a wear house at City Furniture in Tamarac, Fla.

Associated Press



In this July 5, 2018, photo workers assemble the Afloat water bed at the factory in Corona, Calif.

Associated Press